

Activity #3: List Sources of Infection or Contamination in the Washroom

<b>1.</b> Most Contaminated	<b>5.</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>6.</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>7.</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>8.</b> Least Contaminated

**TOILET**

**USED WASH CLOTHS**

**SINK & FAUCET**

**PERSONAL HYGIENE  
ITEMS**

**TUB**

**FLOOR**

**DOOR HANDLES,  
KNOBS & PULLS**

**GARBAGE CAN**

### Activity #3: Answer Key

Item	Key Points
1. Toilet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contaminated hands touch the flush handle</li><li>• When a toilet is flushed fecal matter can be pushed into the environment, if there is no lid (i.e., toilet seat, floor, etc.)</li></ul>
2. Tub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surfaces are in contact with mucous membranes, orifices, and open wounds (e.g., pressure ulcers)</li><li>• Any standing water left in tub can harbour bacteria</li><li>• Tub should be cleaned and disinfected after every use using an approved disinfectant as per the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU)</li></ul>
3. Sink & Faucet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contaminated hands touch faucet to turn taps on/off</li><li>• Bacteria from hands can adhere to sink surface and act as a reservoir (i.e., biofilm)</li></ul>
4. Door Handles, Knobs & Pulls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transfer of microorganisms from contaminated hands onto door handles, knobs, and pulls</li><li>• Considered high touch surfaces due to frequent contact with hands</li></ul>
5. Used Wash Cloths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash cloths can be visibly soiled with blood, feces, and other body fluids</li><li>• Used wash cloths should be promptly placed into designated location (e.g., linen bin) and not left on floor or in tub</li></ul>
6. Personal Hygiene Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Items may be a source of transmission if used on multiple residents (i.e., exposure to microbial flora of different residents)</li><li>• Some items cannot be effectively cleaned and disinfected between uses (e.g., razors, toothbrushes, loofahs, etc.)</li><li>• Personal hygiene items should be dedicated to individual residents and stored either in the resident's room or in a dedicated (e.g., labelled with name) cleanable storage bin after the shower/bath is complete</li></ul>

7. Garbage Can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hands may be used to open/close lid Soiled items contaminated with bodily fluids are stored</li></ul>
8. Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can be soiled with blood, feces, and other body fluids which can act as potential sources of infection</li></ul>

Note: The purpose of this activity is to promote discussion regarding the sources of infection or contamination within a washroom setting. Although an answer key is provided, this is simply a template as there are numerous factors that can impact the level of contamination. The emphasis should be placed on discussion around the identified sources of infection or contamination rather than strictly on the ranking or classification of items.