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## Steering wheels are nine times dirtier than public toilet seats

by **Chris Shunk** (RSS feed) on Apr 27th 2011 at 4:00PM



Have you ever driven a vehicle that had a sticky steering wheel? It's probably one of the most disgusting feelings there is, and a report in IBN Live shows that the adhesive can be more than just grape jelly. Researchers at Queen Mary University in London claim that there

are, on average, 700 different kinds of bacteria *per square inch* of steering wheel. That compares to 80 distinct bacteria types on a public toilet seat. Even worse, the trunk has 1,000 bacteria types per square inch. The most common form of bacteria was bacillus cereus, which can cause food poisoning.

The reason cars are filthy is simple; we simply don't clean them. While we vacuum, dust and disinfect our home on a semi-regular basis, only one third of study participants cleaned their vehicle once a year or more. That sounds pretty crazy (and a bit lazy), but think about it. You may jettison the trash and vacuum the carpet on a somewhat regular basis, but how often do you wipe down that nasty steering wheel? And when you think about how many Americans regularly eat in their vehicles, our cars could be a solid reason why we are sick as often as we are. Now we know why valet parking attendants tend to wear white gloves.

Beyond cleanliness, the study also shows that many drivers know next to nothing about their vehicles. For example, two-thirds of us don't know how to change a tire, while one third of those surveyed don't even know

how to put air in the tires. It's a sad, sad world.

[Source: **IBN Live** | Image: Zach Bowman/AOL]

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- Speeds system startup
- Reduces error messages

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The advertisement is a horizontal banner with an orange background. On the left is the AOL logo, which consists of four overlapping circles in blue, red, green, and purple, with the text 'Aol.' in white. To the right of the logo, the main headline 'Introducing AOL Computer Checkup.' is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below the headline, there are three bullet points, each starting with a white dot and followed by black text: 'Helps your computer run faster', 'Speeds system startup', and 'Reduces error messages'. On the far right of the banner, there is a blue pill-shaped button with the text 'Try It Free!\*' in white.