



# News

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Environment & Health](#) > [News Detail](#)

## Credit Cards Less Contaminated Than Cash

**May 17, 2011** — Many people have curtailed their use of credit cards, believing reducing or eliminating credit card debt is the first step in becoming financially healthy. However, credit cards may be "healthier" to use than we appreciated because U.S. greenbacks tend to be more soiled than most of us realized, according to a Kaivac, Inc., press release.

Based on recent studies of one dollar bills, the following contaminants, germs, and bacteria were found\*:

- Staphylococcus aureus, which can cause infection and disease, was found on 42 percent of the notes
- Rhinovirus, which is responsible for about one-third of all colds, was found on virtually all currency
- Bisphenol A (BPA), a hormone-disrupting chemical, was noted on more than half of the bills tested
- E. coli was found on 7 percent of the bills
- Fecal matter was observed on 30 percent of the notes
- Cocaine, which bonds to the green dye on the bills, was traced on 92 percent of the currency.

Credit cards tend to be less contaminated, according to the studies, because they are handled by far fewer people. But rather than using plastic exclusively, the release advised that people can protect themselves by washing their hands more frequently to prevent cross-contamination.

\*The number of dollar bills tested ranged from about 22 to more than 100 depending on the study. The following article was among the sources used for this report: "Health Buzz: Paper Money Contaminated With BPA" by Angela Haupt, *US News and World Report*, Dec 10, 2010.

Read the [full story](#), which was initially published on the ISSA networking group



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### About Kaivac

Headquartered in Hamilton, OH, Kaivac is the developer of the No-Touch Cleaning® system. For more information, visit [www.kaivac.com](http://www.kaivac.com).

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