

What do you get if you cross a comedian with germs? Sick jokes, surprisingly that was the only germ joke that wasn't completely disgusting, another joke I found was 'what did the mould say when he had his picture taken? -Cheese'. If you haven't already guessed, this speech has a little to do with germs, and nothing to do with cheese; it's also to do with innovative house technologies, so all you mysophobics I'm talking to you. If there was one thing I learnt from writing this speech it's that 'mysophobia' is a fear of germs, I also learnt that some people have really weird ideas, for example transparent TVs, and floor plan light switches, or the innovation I chose to talk about; the 'Self-sterilizing door handle' designed by Choi Bomi in 2012.

According to its website, the self-sterilizing door handle is great; with just one touch the UV-C light kills almost 100% of germs instantly. It claims to "stop the spread" of influenza and most communicable diseases, which are otherwise "unpreventable". Apparently these people have never heard of sneezing, or washing your hands. This transparent door handle is blue when sterilising, and has a futuristic look to it, I don't see how it could look anything other than futuristic though; it's a glowing door handle.

On the flipside, this handle provides no security, such as a lock, so that would need to be installed separately, and you would need to unlock that anyway, defeating the entire purpose of the handle, so it could not be used on a front door, unless you were particularly keen on being robbed. Another downside is the constant need for electricity, which has a negative impact on the environment and costs money, even after the initial cost, upwards of \$1,000 to purchase it, and have it installed. Perhaps the biggest turn-off of all is that, it could, literally, kill you, hence it has already been banned in three countries, but not yet Australia. It is prone to overheating, which can scorch your hand, and eventually lead to electrocution. According to the Health and Physics Society, the UV-C light that is used can also lead to skin-cancers and loss of vision, or in extreme cases, blindness.

This innovation may never become an emerging technology because of these dangers... although you never know how many mysophobics are out there looking for just this.

Thankyou

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