

Memorandum – Money Sanitization

ATTENTION

RMWB staffers

12 August 2020

Despite what the title may indicate, this memo is not about *money laundering*.



Figure 1. Canadian Polymer Banknotes

Due to the high prevalence of microscopic germs, some of which are able to cause harmful infections in people, it is necessary to become aware of common items that may be contaminated and transmit germs from person to person. Such items are referred to as *fomites*.

Cash money is a fomite that many people carry around with them to make day-to-day purchases. Coins such as loonies and toonies are not a great concern as they contain enough copper to be self-sanitizing, due to the *oligodynamic effect*. The banknotes, however, are made of a plastic polymer that is a fomite that is easily sanitized by one of two procedures:



Figure 2. Spray bottle

1. Application of sanitizing spray
 - a. Sanitize surface such as a countertop with spray
 - b. Apply required amount of bills to surface and drench with spray
 - c. Using sanitized hands, place bills into sanitized receptacle

2. UVC light exposure – this method exposes all surfaces of the bill to sufficient intensities of UV light, ideally between 250 and 265 nm wavelength.



Figure 3. UV Wand, available from Walmart

Ask your on-site safety technician about these procedures.