

## ON GADGETS AND GRIME

Your cell phone is teeming with bacteria. Before you hold it against your face again, maybe you should consider cleaning it?

PHOTOGRAPH BY YASU + JUNKO

Chances are, the devices you rely on the most—and therefore touch the most—accumulate dirt and germs for weeks, even months, before you finally give them a proper wipe-down. This neglect is potentially damaging not only to your health but also to each product's life span. "It's important to keep connective ports and headphone jacks pristine so they work properly," says Michael Truskowski of New York City's Tekserve. When you start to notice a buildup of oil and dirt, it's time to clean. But bear in mind that ammonia and alcohol, found in many household cleaners, can do more harm than good. Instead, stick with products specifically designed for your gadgets, like the ones shown here. "Or, if you want a safe at-home solution, use a 50-50 mix of distilled water and white vinegar," says Keith Fleury, director of Staples EasyTech Services.

—Kayla Alewel



### Tools for Cleaner Tech

From a quick spray to the wave of a wand, these products will get your gadgets spotless, sometimes in seconds.

1

#### CELL-PHONE SANITIZER

Disinfect while you sleep! The PhoneSoap will charge your phone's battery as it disinfects. Simply plug yours in and shut the lid, and the UVC light will zap away germs. \$50, [phonesoap.com](http://phonesoap.com).

**USE ON** Smartphones, small digital cameras, earbuds—whatever will fit inside.

2

#### SCREEN CLEANER

This antimicrobial cleaning spray removes dirt, smudges, and bacteria from most electronics. Just squirt it onto a soft cloth and gently wipe. *iKlear* spray, \$13 for 8 oz., [staples.com](http://staples.com).

**USE ON** Laptops, desktops, TV monitors, smartphones, and tablets.

3

#### COMPRESSED AIR

The DataVac electric duster dispels dust and dirt from hard-to-reach spots—like inside your computer's USB ports. "Never insert any object into a port to try to clean it—you may accidentally cause more damage," says Tekserve's Truskowski. \$100, [staples.com](http://staples.com).

**USE ON** Keyboards, mice, printers, and DVD players.

4

#### SANITIZING WAND

A UVC wand is a great way to clean hard surfaces. Wipe away visible dirt, then wave the wand over your gadget for a few seconds to eradicate 99.9 percent of germs and allergens. *CleanWave* portable sanitizing wand, \$60, [verilux.com](http://verilux.com).

**USE ON** Just about anything: phones, remote controls, even ATMs (it's portable!).

5

#### ANTIMICROBIAL CLOTHS

These machine-washable dual-sided (one for polishing, the other for buffing) microfiber cloths safely clean your screen by absorbing the oil, dirt, and moisture that fingers leave behind. *Smart cloths*, from \$12 each, [schatzii.com](http://schatzii.com).

**USE ON** Smartphones, tablets, laptops, TV monitors, game consoles, and eyeglasses.