

The £30 MRSA zapper that will fit in your pocket

A POCKET-SIZED gadget that zaps bird flu and superbugs will be sold on the High Street within weeks.

Designed for use in the home and office, the device flips open like a mobile phone to reveal a powerful ultra-violet lamp, capable of killing deadly bacte-

By **Fiona MacRae**
Science Reporter

ria. UV light is already used in hospitals to sterilise surgical instruments.

But until now the technology has not been publically available. This device, costing about £30 or £40, would be suitable for sterilising toothbrushes, toilet seats, cut-

lery and babies' dummies and toys with its blasts of light, experts say.

Tests have shown that it can kill bugs such as MRSA, salmonella and E.coli.

It is also highly effective against the H5N1 strain of bird flu, killing 99.99 per cent of organisms in just ten seconds.

Kenny McCaffrey, of marketing experts Product Scout, said: 'With



Blast-off: Held at close range, the gadget makes sure toys are clean

so many headlines in the news about bacteria in the workplace and avian flu, people are obviously worried about hygiene and bacteria.

'But unless they swab everything with alcohol wipes, there was not much they could do about it - until now.

'The beauty of this product is that it's small enough to carry everywhere and powerful enough to give you peace of mind in any situation, whether you drop something on the floor, handle second-hand goods, or need to use outside facilities, including eating out, going to hospital, taking a cruise or backpacking.'

'Safe for use on any surface other than the skin, the device should be held between a quarter and one-and-three-quarter inches from its target.'

The Nano-UV Portable Disinfection Light, designed by Hong Kong

firm Corva Technology, is powered by two AAA batteries. One set of batteries last for up to 400 scans, with dirtier surfaces requiring two or three ten-second blasts.

Manufacturers stress the device is not a toy and should be kept out of the reach of children.

The potential dangers of UV light mean it should not be used on the body and no one should look directly at the beam.

Microbiologists welcomed the innovation but said that simple methods, such as handwashing, are also effective at keeping bugs at bay.

Hugh Pennington, emeritus professor of bacteriology at Aberdeen University, said: 'UV light does destroy bugs, there is no doubt about that.'

'So it has a place, but only alongside other things that are more traditional in some ways.'

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**Product
Scout**

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Disinfection Light

www.productscout.co.uk