

Things we don't know about hotel rooms.

Even the most luxurious hotel accommodations are rarely as hygienic, private or safe as your own home.

The question-and-answer web site [Quora](#) recently asked hoteliers and hospitality industry experts about a range of things including: "[What are the things we don't know about hotel rooms?](#)" Here are some of their disturbing observations.

Peepholes can be used in reverse.

Check the peephole in your door. If it's damaged or it has been tampered with, ask for a different room. A peephole should offer a clear, unobstructed view. If it is unclear, cloudy or in any way compromised, it is unsafe. A tampered peephole may be an indication of a peephole camera: a reverse lens that allows an outside viewer to see inside a hotel room. To be safe guests should plug the peephole with a twisted piece of paper, removing it only if needed.

Additionally, if someone knocks at your door but no one is visible from the peephole, don't open the door. Call the front desk instead.

Step away from the coffee maker.

Skip the in-room coffee pot and head to a local café. Yes, it might look clean, but who knows how the previous guests used it before you? Think vomit, cigarette butts, crayons.

The water glasses by the bathroom sink are just as suspect. At best hotel staff merely wiped them with a rag or rinsed them with plain water. Guests should wash the glasses with soap and water to make sure they are sanitised properly. This might be one of the cleanest parts of your hotel room. Just don't touch the drinking glasses.

The safest place for your bags.

The safest place for your luggage isn't necessarily where you would think. After checking the bathroom floor to see that it appears clean, the advice is to open your bag there especially if the rack itself is made from wood. Bedbugs love wood. Metal luggage are best because bedbugs are less likely to survive on metal.

The room's most contaminated object might surprise you.

The dirtiest thing in any good hotel room is likely to be the TV remote. Its probably has been handled by countless people, and is almost never cleaned by staff.

A 2012 study by the University of Houston found that remotes are typically as contaminated as the toilet. Then there is another piece of furniture that most hotel guests use without thinking: the bedside lamp switch.

Before handling either one, you may want to give these a quick wipe over with antibacterial wipes or sprays.

Finally - try to rest easy, regardless

Germ-covered remotes, bed side lamps, bedbugs, wood or what else? It's no wonder hotel guests are becoming wary.

Luckily, an increase in public awareness has raised the hygiene and safety standards in many hotels.

For example, the US-based [Best Western chain now uses ultraviolet wands](#) that kill bacteria and germs when they are passed over objects. The chain also switched to waterproof television remotes to make cleaning them easier.

Don't want to rely on your hotel? Then come equipped with antibacterial wipes and sprays. And for those who want extra assurance you might want to purchase an electronic hygiene monitor to check objects like blankets and phones for bacteria. You never know what you might find.

Then again you could lock yourself at home and stay safe simply by surrounding your house in plastic wrap and refuse to go anywhere!!