

## Environmental Monitoring Assessment

The SCENSIBLE SOURCE COMPANY, Rochester, NY, conducted a study in November 2008, to evaluate the presence of microorganisms on feminine waste disposal units in public-use restrooms. Sample locations were comprised of female restrooms at a variety of facilities including a college library and student union, a hospital lobby area, a high school, a restaurant, a "big box" retail store and a food court at a shopping mall. The samples were sent to Ethox International, Inc., STS Life Sciences Division Rochester, New York for analysis.

Since hand contact is required to open sanitary napkin disposal units; the frequently touched surfaces such as the lid, handle and swing-style panel covering were swabbed. In several locations, the sanitary napkin disposal units were found to be without an interior lining (plastic or waxed bag) and samples were taken from the inner exposed surface.

The following is a brief summary of the findings.

- Bacterial and/or mold growth was detected on 100% of the sanitary napkin disposal units.
- Regularly touched exterior surfaces yielded a microbial load between 158 and 13,000 colony forming units (cfu), with an average bacterial count of 2,644.
- The interiors yielded a significantly higher level of microbiological contamination with an average of 27,955 cfu.
- The sample found to have the highest microbial load, 83,000 cfu, was taken from the inside of an unlined sanitary napkin disposal unit in a female restroom on a college campus.