

Survey Says, Car Interiors Possible Breeding Ground for Bacteria

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. breeding ground /'bri:diŋ graʊnd/ (noun) - a place or condition that produces or causes a lot of something, esp. something bad
Example: Poverty is a breeding ground for crime.
2. carry out /'kerē out/ (verb) to do or complete something, especially that you have said you would do or that you have been told to do
Example: The hospital is carrying out tests to find out what's wrong with her.
3. vomit /'vɒm.ɪt/ (verb) to empty the contents of the stomach through the mouth
Example: He came home drunk and vomited all over the kitchen floor.
4. pet accidents /pet 'aksədənt/ (noun) - term used to define the uncontrolled peeing or pooping of dogs or cats
Example: Don't yell at your dog for committing 'pet accidents'.
5. rot /rɒ:t/ (verb) to (cause something to) decay:
Example: The fruit had been left to rot on the trees.



Many people feel safer in their own cars than risk getting germs while traveling on public transport. The truth for many car drivers and passengers is the opposite. A British survey discovered that most cars are so dirty inside that they are a potential **breeding ground** for bacteria such as the deadly E.Coli.

The survey was **carried out** by the University of Nottingham. Microbiologists analyzed steering wheels, hand brakes, foot wells and seats to find out what bacteria might be hiding there. They found that most cars were dirty enough to house the deadly

bacteria. They also discovered that most car owners gave very little thought to the importance of keeping their car interior clean.

Cars are an ideal place for germs to live. Over half of car owners have dropped food on seats, while a third have spilt drinks. Other owners spoke of children's **vomit** and '**pet accidents**'. Despite this, only a quarter of owners cleaned the inside of their cars once every three months and most drivers still eat and drink at the wheel.

Common problems the researchers found were drink bottles under seats, used tissues in storage areas and **rotting** food on carpets and seat covers. A spokeswoman said: "It's really worrying to see just how dirty people are letting their cars get. We were expecting to find some bad stuff from the University of Nottingham's testing but we didn't expect to find bacteria relating to E.coli in there."

DISCUSSION

1. What do you do to avoid germs?
2. Why are many cars so dirty inside?
3. What do you think of drivers who eat and drink at the wheel?
4. How can car makers make cars more hygienic?
5. What does the inside of a car say about the car owner?