

# THERABATH PARAFFIN TREATMENT HYGIENE FACTS

**YES!** Communal Paraffin Dipping is Safe\*!

## The science...

The physical properties of the paraffin do not allow the wax in the bath to become contaminated. This is because Therabath paraffin:

- Contains NO WATER,
- Has NO OXYGEN,
- Is maintained at 130° F (54°C).



High temperature and lack of oxygen and water make a hostile environment for survival of pathogens.



A "germ" is placed on the finger (we used a water based hydrating cream for the demonstration).



The finger is immersed into the wax and a protective shell/barrier/glove happens instantaneously. Only the inside of the initial layer of wax is in contact with the skin.



The "germ" is still present on the skin, however it has been encapsulated instantly as the finger was dipped in the wax.

## Still follow best practices...

\*Despite the scientific evidence that the paraffin wax is clean after use, users should still be cleansed/sanitized before immersing in the wax. Open wounds should never be immersed. Used paraffin should always be discarded.

## More in-depth information...

When a hand or foot is immersed into melted paraffin, it is instantaneously coated with a layer of solidified paraffin, so what is on the skin stays on the skin. This instant barrier is formed because human skin is 22 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than the melting point of the paraffin, and is maintained at or near that temperature by circulated blood, so the paraffin congeals as soon as it touches the skin. Because the barrier forms immediately, germs and dirt on the skin are instantly encapsulated and unable to contaminate the remaining paraffin in the bath during the initial or subsequent immersions, as confirmed by a 2007 lab study performed by R-Tech Laboratories. Additionally, R-Tech performed a "worst case scenario" study where used paraffin was returned to the bath. The results of the "worst case scenario" test support the results of a 1986 University of Minnesota study.

In order to determine whether paraffin treatments are sanitary, paraffin baths were tested at two separate facilities including Oregon State University. Both certified that paraffin is a "hostile environment" for bacteria and fungi, even when these organisms were intentionally added to the paraffin (such as in the OSU study). In addition, when one dips in the paraffin, an "instant barrier" is formed between the skin and paraffin in the bath. (A certificate of testing is available from WR Medical Electronics Co.) If a paraffin bath is for public use, a sanitizing spray should be used on the skin. Used paraffin should be discarded, and the paraffin bath should be cleaned regularly.

Burke, Mary; Topping, Kristi; and the Oregon State University Product Safety Committee of the Oregon Board of Barbers and Hairdressers (Rodia, R. Mike; Spencer, Carleen; Henigan, Carol). "Are You Getting More than Soft Hands from a Paraffin (Wax) Bath?" July 1996.

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