Investigation: Shopping Carts

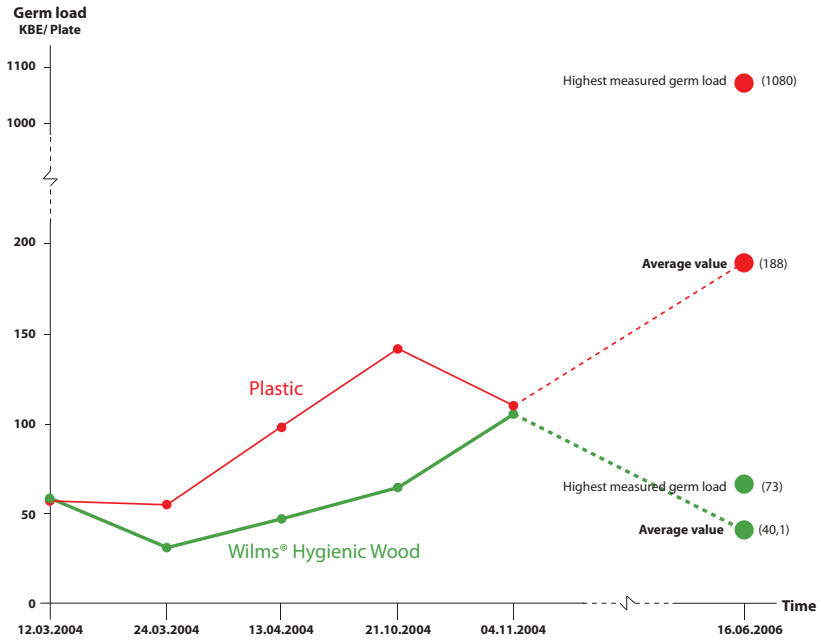
Objective

Compare the amount of pathogens on grocery cart handles made of Wilms® Hygienic Wood to those made of plastic.

Procedure

In this study, the microbial load on shopping cart handles made of Wilms® Hygienic Wood and conventional plastic was investigated. Conducted in Melle-Buer, Germany, the study compared a group of shopping carts at a local supermarket that had been fitted with Wilms® Hygienic Wood handles to the normal carts with plastic handles.

The study was conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Carts were tested directly after use and also after longer periods of inactivity. The first samples were taken in March of 2003 and the last samples in June of 2006. The samples were evaluated by the „German Institute of Food Technology".



*Germs on handles of shopping carts - plastic and Wilms® Hygienic Wood (Ep Patent #1005964)**

Results

Hygienic Wood handles are less heavily populated with germs than plastic handles. Even after three years of use, the Wilms® Hygienic Wood handles resist germs far better than plastic handles.
Another factor besides the material was the weather. The weather influenced the growth of germs.

Wet Weather: higher microbial load on plastic, lower on Wilms® Hygienic Wood and vice versa.

Conclusion

Handles made of Wilms® Hygienic Wood have significantly fewer germs compared to conventional plastic handles. Wilms® Hygienic Wood considerably reduces the transfer of pathogens from person to person.

Implementation

German Institute of Food Technology,
Professor-von-Klitzing-Str. 7, 49610 Quakenbrück, 2003-2006.

* *Data: German Institute of Food Technology (2003-2006) : Comparative investigations of the bars from Wilms® Hygienic Wood and plastic at trolleys; Graphic compilation: Fa. Wilms GmbH*