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*Laundering Money: The Effect of Different Methods for Sanitizing Microorganisms on Money*

This experiment was designed to answer my question, “Is there a quick and effective method to clean money that could be incorporated into a device designed for commercial use, especially in restaurants?” To be able to answer this question and design the device, I first needed to conduct experiments to find a quick and effective cleaning method to incorporate into this device. Four different sanitizing methods were chosen to find which would be the most effective in reducing the amount of germs on money.

I investigated this question by collecting money from four common locations: a bank, a grocery store, a restaurant, and an ATM machine. Three bills from each location would be cleaned using one of the four different sanitizing methods, which included soap+water, UV lights, ironing (extreme heat), and disinfectant wipes. Each bill was exposed for ten seconds with the cleansing method.

The results showed that the bills treated by intense heat (ironing) had the least amount of colonies, followed in order by the UV light method, soap+water, and finally the disinfectant wipes. However, no one method completely killed all the microorganisms.

In conclusion, I found that further research is essential where combinations of these treatments are used, method(s) to destroy fungi are found, other types of treatment are incorporated, for example wipes with bleach or antibacterial soap, spices, etc. Also, utilizing a shorten exposure time is essential before I can begin building my useful and practical device.