

# Life in Space: In the Bathroom

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the paragraph. Find a definition in the paragraph for each word below.

Since there is no gravity in space, water cannot flow, so bathrooms in space don't look quite the same as they do here on earth. It's not so much "washing" as "wiping" when it's time for the astronauts to spiffy up. They clean their hands or faces with alcohol, or use a towel dampened with liquid soap, and their bodies using a towel dampened with body shampoo. Hair is cleaned with a waterless shampoo that doesn't require rinsing with water. The waterless shampoo doesn't foam up like shampoo does at home, since the foam could splatter around inside the space shuttle and damage the equipment. After washing, the astronauts simply towel off and they're done.

Though there are no sinks or showers in the Space Shuttle, there are toilets, and they work pretty much like you would expect them to—with a few notable exceptions. The first is that the astronauts have to be toilet trained before they can leave earth. Since their bodies are floating, they use a training device that has a camera so that they can make sure they are positioned correctly over the toilet opening, which is only about four inches in diameter. The next thing that's different is that astronauts have to fasten themselves to the toilet so their bodies won't float away. And finally, when they're finished, the "flush" mechanism is actually similar to a vacuum cleaner that sucks all the waste away. The wastes are vacuum dried to be stored and transported back to earth.

1. How is washing in space the same as washing on earth? How is it different?

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2. How is using the toilet in space the same as on earth? How is it different?

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