

## Wii and The Common Cold

Contributed by S Warley  
Saturday, 30 December 2006  
Last Updated Tuesday, 02 January 2007

With the shortage of Wii's this holiday season, WorkoutWithWii finds ourselves sharing the Wii experience with more gamers than we have ever shared anything in the past. After lugging a Wii to a second holiday party in two days (at the request of the party hosts) we tallied and figured about 25 different adults and kids have used our Wii controllers in the last few days.

Now, cold and flu season is in full effect and those sweaty games of Wii Tennis surely have transferred germs to our Wii controllers. Doing a quick Google search shows that it is recommended to wash your hands and keep your toys clean as the top tips for preventing the common cold. From the Mayo Clinic's Common Cold Page Prevention Tips:

Because so many different viruses can cause a common cold, no effective vaccine has been developed. But you can take some common-sense precautions to slow the spread of cold viruses: Wash your hands. Clean your hands thoroughly and often, and teach your children the importance of hand washing. Carry a bottle of alcohol-based hand rub containing at least 60 percent alcohol for times when soap and water aren't available. These gels kill most germs, and are safe for older children to use themselves.

Scrub your stuff. Keep kitchen and bathroom countertops clean, especially when someone in your family has a common cold. Wash children's toys after play.

To stem the potential oncoming tide of cold germs, we used some Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes (make sure the wipes you use are non-bleach) on both our Wii Remotes and Nunchucks. Do this by first turning your Wii off and then gently wiping the controllers (for added precaution, you might want to remove your Wii Remote batteries first).

Note: Make sure you do not get excess cleaning solution on the Wii Remote as you do not want any liquid getting inside.

Our controllers have Wii Controller Gloves (that we received as holiday gifts) which make it slightly easier to clean because the buttons protrude only slightly and adds an additional barrier to prevent the cleaning liquid from getting inside the controller.

So this holiday season, make sure you Wii Germ Free.