1. **Dish Sponge**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 1,476,612
   - Germs grow and thrive in dish sponges. They are your kitchen's dirty little secret, already harboring bacteria of all kinds, including salmonella, E. coli, and staphylococcus.

2. **Kitchen Sink**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 11,381,285
   - Your sink doubles as a dirty hotbed for microbe growth. What do raw meat juices, soggy cereal, and spoiled milk have in common? They all get poured into your sink. That's why it's no surprise that your sink is one of the germiest places in the home, breeding bacteria of all kinds, including salmonella, E. coli, and staphylococcus.

3. **Toothbrush Holder**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 10,000+
   - Your toothbrush holder is one of the most frequently touched places in your home, making it a perfect breeding ground for bacteria of all kinds, including salmonella, E. coli, and staphylococcus.

4. **Pet Bowl**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 2,465,876
   - Your dog slurps out of the toilet and eats scraps off the floor, so you don't really need to clean it that often. Your pet's bowl is one of the most bacteria-ridden things in your house. But don't worry, there's an antimicrobial for that.

5. **Coffee Pot**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 200,000
   - Did you know your coffee maker is brewing a lot of bacteria? The dark, warm, wet environment makes it a perfect breeding ground for bacteria of all kinds, including salmonella, E. coli, and staphylococcus.

6. **Carpet**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 548,270
   - Your carpet holds crumbs, pet dander, and bad bacteria. A study published in the scientific journal Advanced Biomedical Research found that carpets harbor yeast and mold. In fact, 64% of toothbrush holders and 86% of sponges harbor yeast. Bacteria love the damp spots of all kinds, making your carpet an especially warm and moist place for bacteria to grow.

7. **Bathroom Faucet Handle**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 17,976
   - Your bathroom faucet handle is one of the most heavily touched places in your home, especially when preparing foods. Did you know that 72% of toothbrush holders and 90% of sponges harbor yeast? Bacteria love the damp spots of all kinds, making your bathroom faucet handle an especially warm and moist place for bacteria to grow.

8. **Pet Toy**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 1,142
   - Playing fetch with your best friend? You might also fetch yourself a bacteria-ridden thing. Playing with your pet toys is one of the most surprising collection of germs since the scientific journal Advanced Biomedical Research published its findings in 2010.

9. **Purse**
   - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 10,000+
   - Your purse holds loose coins, candy and potentially harmful bacteria. Old receipts, but did you know it also holds a clear hotbed for microbe growth. Your purse is one of the most heavily touched places in your home, making it a perfect breeding ground for bacteria of all kinds, including salmonella, E. coli, and staphylococcus.

10. **Countertop**
    - Microorganisms per 10 sq. cm: 4,590
    - Your kitchen counter is the hub of the home. It's where you cut meat, crack eggs, drop groceries, and place your purse. So is it a shock that it's one of the germiest places in the home, breeding bacteria of all kinds, including salmonella, E. coli, and staphylococcus.

**Sources**
- National Sanitation Foundation
- Advanced Biomedical Research
- Biomedical Research
- Express
- Advanced Biomedical Research

**When to Clean**

- **Daily**
  - Countertop
  - Carpet
  - Dish Sponge
  - Coffee Pot
- **Weekly**
  - Pet Toy
  - Pet Bowl
- **Monthly**
  - Purse
- **Yearly**
  - Bathroom Faucet Handle
  - Toothbrush Holder
  - Kitchen Sink
- **Every 10 Years**
  - Faucet Handle