

Sports Shops Do Not Always Clean Used Items

March 11, 2019



François St-Pierre, assistant manager of L'Ancienne-Lorette sports flea market, ensures that each of the items that belonged to customers goes through the ozone machine.

Not all sports stores specializing in the sale of used equipment apply the same cleaning and disinfection policy, *Le Journal* noted.

While the proportion of equipment cleaned and disinfected with an ozone machine before being resold on the floor is estimated between 75 and 90%, others carefully sort each piece of equipment they receive.

"To be honest, due to turnover, we're definitely getting away with some material. We are one of the largest used-part stores in Quebec and it's hard to get through everything," said Shado Forget, manager of the Laval Sports-Aux-Puces branch.

At the Echo Sports store in Quebec City, employees warn customers they may be buying equipment that has not been cleaned beforehand. It is quite limited though, according to manager Stéphane Giguère.

"We're careful, and the things that go on the skin are cleaned. The clear majority is, but when it's like new and been used four or five times, we don't necessarily do it. In 25 years, I've never had any returned item from clients!"

Like new

The L'Ancienne-Lorette, Trois-Rivières and Drummondville branches of the Sports-Aux-Puces banner are an exception to the rule by systematically eliminating all potential traces of bacteria on previously used merchandise. Even baseball gloves, boots and ski helmets are cleaned!

"My whole inventory enters the machine before we place it on the floor; it is washed once or twice. From helmets to skates, everything fits. We remove soles from skates. Customers tell us that it smells like new when they enter the store," says assistant manager François St-Pierre.

The smell on entering makes us believe that all the stock sold has never been used. The subject even reminds of a story of someone who has been working in this field for more than a decade.

"When it's infected, it's too late. That said, we received equipment from a guy who had never washed it before. I washed it 10 times in the machine and it didn't do the job. I had to soak it for a week in a solution before it came back to normal," he says.

Equipment on loan to the CHL

In the QMJHL, players participating in the Canada-Russia Series are required to wear the helmets and gloves that their WHL colleagues have previously worn. The Canadian League, which is hosting the event, did not answer our questions.

"The host teams are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting helmets and gloves when they receive them. The rest of the time, it's internal team management," said Maxime Blouin, QMJHL Director of Communications.

Source: <https://www.journaldemontreal.com/2019/03/11/des-pieces-usagees-pas-toujours-nettoyees>