

Mouthwatchers toothbrush has germ-fighting bristles

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Special Contributor

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As with most toothbrushes, Mouthwatchers is all about the bristles, which are the same on the manual and battery-powered models.

Mouthwatchers makes a big deal out of one of its bristles' unique features: antibacterial nano-silver particles that eliminate 99.9 percent of bacteria within six hours of contamination, which the Mouthwatchers website documents at mouthwatchers.com.

Though the germ-fighting quality of Mouthwatchers' bristles appears to be unique and valid, it may not be as big a deal as the manufacturer makes of it because, according to the American Dental Association, germs typically found on toothbrushes are low risk.

But don't brush off Mouthwatchers just because the product's antibacterial feature may be a debatable frill. After using the powered model for about two weeks, continuing to floss and using a brand-name whitening toothpaste, I found that the Mouthwatchers brush seems to perform better for me than the battery-powered toothbrushes I have used before, the Arm & Hammer Spinbrush Dual-Action and the Oral-B CrossAction.

The bristles of the Spinbrush and the CrossAction are arranged in similar two-part heads with a round spinning brush head and a separate secondary head that oscillates back and forth.

The Mouthwatchers powered brush has only a round spinning head about the size of the round heads of the other brushes. But rather than just rotating, the Mouthwatchers round head also moves up and down, action that simulates flossing.

Overall, Mouthwatchers seemed to give me better results. I think the difference is the long, thin flossing bristles, which do a better job of cleaning just under the gum line where tartar and plaque build up. And while I wouldn't say that I get that "just cleaned at the dentist" feeling that the website promotes, after I brush my teeth feel clean and my gums are pleasantly stimulated. Plus, after using the brush for a couple of weeks now, I've noticed that my teeth are whiter.

My daughter also has been using the Mouthwatchers brush for a couple of weeks, and her teeth are whiter too, which I assume means they also are cleaner. She has a physical disability and a small mouth, which make it difficult to floss. The flossing bristles of the Mouthwatchers, while not as effective as string floss might be, seem to be working for her, too.

Though the Mouthwatchers toothbrush costs about twice what I've paid for other battery-powered brushes, better performance makes it worth the price to me.

Mouthwatchers toothbrushes are available at Whole Foods stores and from the company's website, mouthwatchers.com. The powered model costs \$19.99 and a pack of three replacement heads is \$12.99. The manual version — adult and youth models — is \$4.99. For a limited time, the company's website is offering the manual version for the cost of shipping, \$3.99.

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