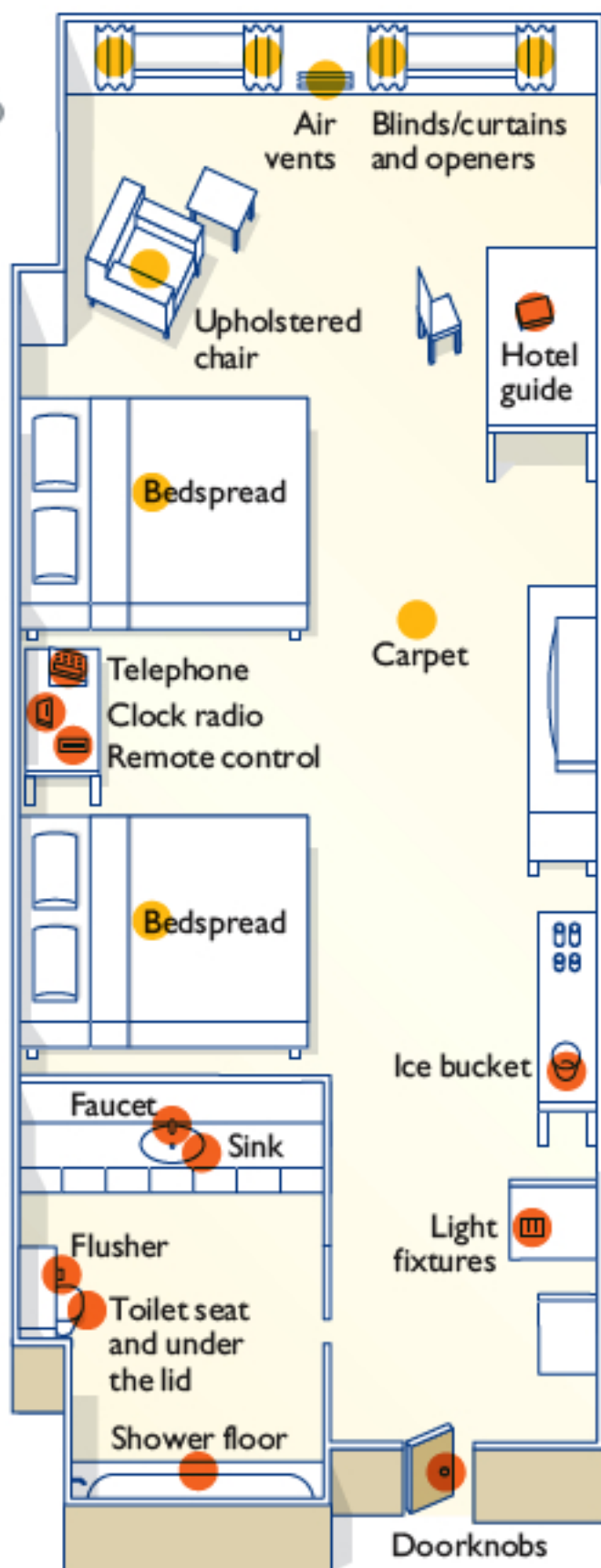


Hot Zones

CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT THE LAST GUEST LEFT A LITTLE SOMETHING BEHIND

Yes, your own home sweet home has more germs than the average hotel room, but they're *your* germs, so they pose minimal health risk (though microbiologist Philip Tierno encourages vigilance in the kitchen). Hotels, on the other hand, accommodate a much more varied (and even international) variety of pathogens left by the myriad guests passing through. With Tierno's help, we've charted where pathogens typically flourish in a hotel room.

- **Worst offenders**
 Anything that's touched multiple times by multiple people carries the greatest concentration of germs. It's a good idea to wipe these objects with disinfectant.
- **Second Tier**
 Things that are rarely cleaned are, not surprisingly, often loaded with bacteria and other pathogens. Wash hands after touching these, just to be on the safe side.



Graphics by Haisam Hussein