

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists  
**Product Recognition Program**

**Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge**



Available online at [www.caot.ca/prp](http://www.caot.ca/prp)



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### Disclaimers

The information compiled in this report was designed for informational purposes and to communicate the final conclusions of a documented review process. The decision to award a seal of recognition **does not supersede or replace other codes, requirements or regulations** set by authoritative organizations of a specific jurisdiction. CAOT encourages health professionals to act in a responsible manner and according to best practices for the recommendation, assessment, installation and maintenance of this product. It is critical to **follow the recommendations set by the manufacturer and/or distributor** of this product and, when relevant, engage domain expert for training, use, installation, maintenance and repair.

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**Specific questions** related to this product(s) (including usage, availability, pricing, etc.) should be addressed directly to the manufacturer and/or distributor. Please visit [www.parsonsadl.com](http://www.parsonsadl.com). Concerns or questions related to the content of this report should be addressed to Julie Lapointe, Director of Knowledge Translation Programs, at [jlapointe@caot.ca](mailto:jlapointe@caot.ca) or at 1(800) 434-2268 ext. 260

The conclusions presented in the current report are derived from the best information available. In the case that new information becomes available and grants a modification to the conclusions, CAOT reserves the right to update and issue a new report of this product at any time.

### Acknowledgement

The generation of this report would not have been possible without the contribution of occupational therapists and members of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).





## Executive Summary

The *Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge* is a sponge that is mounted on an angled, clear acrylic rod that reaches 20" in length to assist an individual in washing difficult to reach places such as the back and lower extremities. Reviewers were unanimous and recommended that the *Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge* be accepted for the CAOT Product Recognition Program. Information and recommendations regarding the performance and use of the product are provided in this report.



**Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge is recognized by CAOT.**



## Review report

### The purpose of this product

The *Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge* is a sponge that is mounted on an angled, clear acrylic rod that reaches 20" in length to assist an individual in washing difficult to reach places such as the back and lower extremities. The soft foam handle retains its grip even when wet and soapy.

### Performance of the product (efficacy, usability, safety, reliability, durability)

- The *Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge* is lightweight and the contoured angle improves the ease and comfort of reaching and washing the back and lower extremities.
- The reviewers found that the handle did maintain good grip even in wet and soapy conditions.
- This product is simple to implement into daily routine. No installation or adjustments are required.
- The sponge needs to be thoroughly rinsed out after each use. The reviewers found that significant strength is required to ring out the sponge as it is made of a dense material.
- The reviewers were unsure if sponge will last for a long period of time, if it will discolour or if it is resistant to mold/mildew and to breakdown.
- There are no foreseeable safety issues related to this product according to the reviewers.

### Important recommendations

There is no hook loop or hole on the end of the handle to allow the user to hang the product up between uses. This could potentially pose an issue for users who cannot bend down to reach for items. It is recommended that users store this product in a place that is easily accessible given their physical abilities.

### Economic considerations

The *Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge* can easily be purchased in most health care supply stores and drug stores. This product was found to be good quality for its cost.

### Scientific evidence

Bent-handled long-handled sponges may be more beneficial to individuals with decreased range of motion in the shoulder and wrist (Sevey & Rice, 2002). Gill, Han and Allore (2007) found that the presence of a long-handled brush or sponge was not significantly related to seniors' development of difficulties bathing independently. No scientific publications regarding the effectiveness of long-handled bath sponges were found. However, a brief literature review reveals that bathing is a meaningful activity for seniors for a variety of reasons, including cleanliness, routine and relaxation (Ahluwalia, Gill, Baker, & Fried, 2010). Environmental modifications to a bathroom, where falls are most likely to occur, can enhance safety for seniors and those with chronic health conditions to maintain or enhance functional independence (Van Oss, Rivers, Macri, Heighton, & Reid, 2012).



## Review committee

The *Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge* was reviewed by three occupational therapists, each with a minimum of 10 years of experience working with a wide range of adaptive equipment. All reviewers have experience in multiple different areas of practice, including geriatrics, community health and orthopedics. Our reviewers stress the importance of assistive device in helping increase the functional independence and well-being of their clients.

## Final recommendation

Reviewers were unanimous and recommended that the *Parsons Deluxe Bath Sponge* be accepted for the CAOT Product Recognition Program. An occupational therapist might recommend the use of this product for clients with limited upper extremity range of motion, such as those with arthritis, pain, weakness or physical disability.

## References

- Ahluwalia, S. C., Gill, T. M., Baker, D. I., & Fried, T. R. (2010). Perspectives of older persons on bathing and bathing disability: A qualitative study. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 58*, 450-456.
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