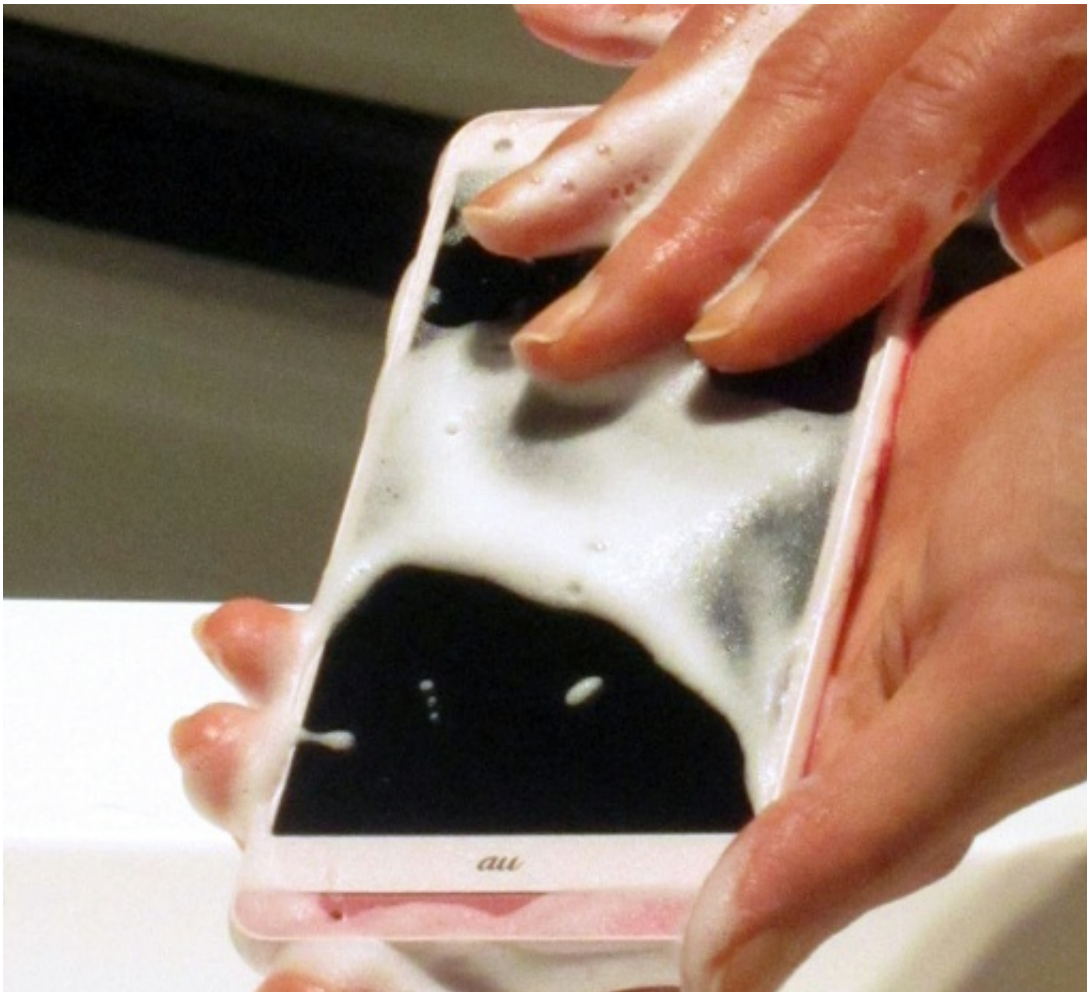


World's first washable smartphone to debut in Japan

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Japanese telecom giant KDDI's washable smartphone "Digno rafre"

Tired of those unsightly smudges and other dirt on your bacteria-laden

smartphone?

A Japanese firm says it has the solution with what it describes the world's first [smartphone](#) that can be washed with soap and water.

Waterproof smartphones have been on the market for a while. But telecom company KDDI says its new "Digno rafre" phone—to be launched in Japan next week—is the only one that can withstand a soapy bath.

"Our development team washed the smartphone more than 700 times to test its durability," a company spokesman told AFP.

An online commercial aimed at proving its credentials features a child dropping the phone onto a plate of food topped with ketchup.

His mother assures her shocked family that those red globs are nothing to worry about as she soaps up the phone under a running tap.

The 21,600 yen (\$175) gadget is mainly aimed at parents who want to keep their smartphones clean for their [small children](#), a KDDI spokesman said.

But he also cautioned that only certain types of foamy soap could be used on the device, which will only be sold in Japan for now.

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