

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2023

Developed for astronauts on the International Space Station **Kao Launches *Space Shampoo Sheet*, a Sheet-Type Dry Shampoo for Earth and Beyond**

On April 3, 2023, Kao Corporation will launch sales of a new dry shampoo called *Space Shampoo Sheet*. The product will be offered in limited quantities on Rakuten Ichiba, one of Japan's largest e-commerce shopping malls. Pre-orders began on March 15.

Japan's veteran astronaut Koichi Wakata lived on the International Space Station (ISS) on a five-month mission from October 6, 2022 to March 12, 2023, setting the space duration record for an astronaut from Japan. His bags were packed with a supply of 3D Space Shampoo Sheets, a dry type of shampoo developed by Kao Corporation. The same sheet, now available commercially under the brand name *Space Shampoo Sheet*, can easily wipe impurities from the scalp and hair without water. A light massage of the contoured sheet over the hair removes excess sebum and refreshes the scalp. The sheets can be used indoors or outdoors, whenever a user wants to wipe away perspiration and stickiness without a shower or bath.



Space Shampoo Sheet: the product and package

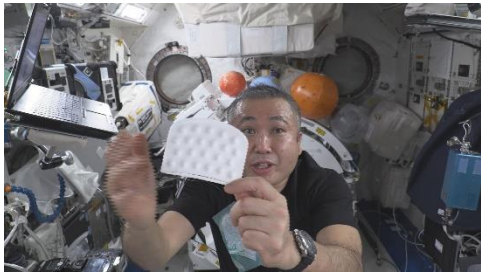
1. Leading up to the launch

Shampooing on the International Space Station (ISS) is an operation rife with challenges. Water is scarce in space, and the splashing of shampoo solutions must be minimized in zero-gravity environments. Special shampoos are also needed due to restrictions placed on the amounts of alcohol allowed aboard space vessels. When Kao researchers learned of the hair-washing challenges faced in zero gravity, they realized that the cleansing technologies Kao had cultivated over the years could improve the hygiene and QOL of astronauts. Their solution was the "3D Space Shampoo Sheet," a hair-washing sheet that easily wipes impurities from the

hair and scalp without water. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) approved the product in 2021 and loaded it on the International Space Station (ISS) during Astronaut Wakata’s five-month stay there from October 2022. The *Space Shampoo Sheet* to be launched commercially in April will be sold through FUNTECH Lab&Biz, Kao’s open innovation platform.

Though originally created for zero-gravity use by Astronaut Wakata, the sheets will also solve hair-washing challenges of people on the ground.

2. Comment by Astronaut Wakata



“It really cleans me up, even up here without baths or showers. The contoured surface wipes away dirt when I massage, for a deep clean all the way from the roots up. A quick shampoo invigorates my scalp.”

Koichi Wakata, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Photo courtesy by JAXA/NASA

3. Product Name/Volume/Price

Product Name	Space Shampoo Sheet
Quantity	6 individually wrapped sheets

No suggested retail price

4. Release date / Distribution

Limited quantities available from April 3, 2023 from [the FUNTECH Lab&Biz \(Japanese\)](#) store in Rakuten Ichiba

Reservations begin in March 15, 2023 / "[Rakuten Ichiba Cloud Funding \(Japanese\)](#)"

5. Product Features

A contoured dry shampoo sheet actually used in space by astronauts. The sheet can be easily used with one hand without water. Each sheet is individually packaged for easy portability, and can be used comfortably in space, or indoors or outdoors on earth. *Space Shampoo Sheets* are ideal when users seek a change of pace or are too busy to bathe or shower with water. A single shampoo leaves the hair and scalp feeling light and airy. Terrestrial users can experience the same zero-gravity hair-washing sensations as an astronaut in space.

- Cleanability: Infused with an alcohol-free cleansing solution. Raised bumps on the sheet wipe away impurities like sebum and keep their shape.
- Comfort: comfortable on contact when the bumps touch the scalp
- Convenience: No water, towel, or hair dryer needed
- Shape: Easily fits in one hand by simply sliding the fingers into the slit



- Ease of use: Simply hold it in your hand, wipe your scalp, and you're done!
- Fragrance: Fresh scent of cosmo floral
- Individually packaged, one sheet at a time. The pattern designs on the package are randomly selected.
- Granted JAXA LABEL *

* The JAXA LABEL (COLLAB) is a logo granted to products created through collaboration between JAXA and companies. Kao Corporation assumes all responsibility for this product.



How to use:

Place your fingers in the slit and comb through your hair.

Wipe with a massaging motion along the strands of your hair.

(Press gently to avoid excessive scrubbing of the scalp.)



When to use:

- When you want to wash your hair but can't
- When you want to relax
- For outdoor activities
- In the middle of work
- For caregiving
- For space travel

Related Information

2021/11/22 News Release: [Kao's Space Laundry Sheet and 3D Space Shampoo Sheet Selected for Use at the International Space Station \(ISS\)](#)