Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting & Infection Control

Partners & Resources

April 2020

Steelcase HEALTH

Steelcase POV

Cleaning vs. Sanitizing vs. Disinfecting

We have received many questions about cleaning and disinfecting our products. “Cleaning” and “disinfecting” are not the same; cleaning products used for soil and stain removal may not be effective disinfectants. Conversely, products that disinfect may not be effective for soil and stain removal.

Cleaning vs. Sanitizing vs. Disinfecting on Steelcase.com

Steelcase’ Position on Use of Antimicrobial Additives and Chemicals

We’ve spent a number of years evaluating the use of antimicrobial additives to our products. Following the recommendations of experts in the medical community, we have made the choice in recent years to avoid use of antimicrobials in standard Steelcase solutions and surface materials. Research & resources include the following:

- Kaiser Permanente
- Perkins & Will
- Healthier Hospitals Initiative
- Center for Disease Control
- The Center for Health Design

Steelcase Surfaces

Steelcase Standard Hard Surfaces

For hard surfaces (including glass, metal, wood, laminate, paint, plastic), use one of these common quaternary compound-type cleaners:

Lysol Disinfecting Wipes (EPA registration number 777-114)
Formula 409 Disinfecting Spray (EPA registration number 67619-10)
Clorox Non-Bleach Disinfecting Wipes (EPA registration number 67619-09)
Lysol All Purpose Spray Cleaner (EPA registration number 777-99)
Fantastik All Purpose Spray Cleaner (EPA registration number 4822-530)

Steelcase Soft Surfaces

Many of our fabrics are safe to use with a 10:1 water/bleach spray, but not all. For a list of these materials, see the Finish Library and filter by "bleach cleanable".

We are in the process of testing other cleaners and will update this information as we have it.

Directions for cleaning:

- The spray should be enough to coat the surface of the fabric, but not to soak through to the substrate.
- Be sure to spray the cleaner uniformly, in order to minimize the impact of the cleaner on material color.

Top 10 Cleaning To Do's

Before using any cleaner, check first to ensure it complies with your company's EHS (Environmental Health and Safety) requirements.

Proper personal protection equipment (PPE) such as gloves and eye protection, as directed by the cleaner manufacturer, must be worn.

To avoid risks of fire or shock, always disconnect electrical power when cleaning products that use or provide electricity.

Please work with your Facilities and EHS staff to determine how frequently your products should be cleaned.

Never mix cleaners together, especially bleach and ammonia, as the mixture produces toxic fumes.

Be careful not to allow liquids to enter any openings in electrical products.

Always follow the cleaner manufacturer's instructions for use, including dilution and dwell time (time that the cleaner remains on surface before being cleaned off).

Ensure that proper ventilation is used, in accordance with the cleaner manufacturer's directions.

For the latest information on potential exposure pathways for COVID-19 infection, including contact with surfaces, please see the CDC website.

LINK to interactive site that provides guidance on how to clean the various materials that comprise the high-touch areas of a typical work or education setting.

Center for Health Design Infection Control Resources

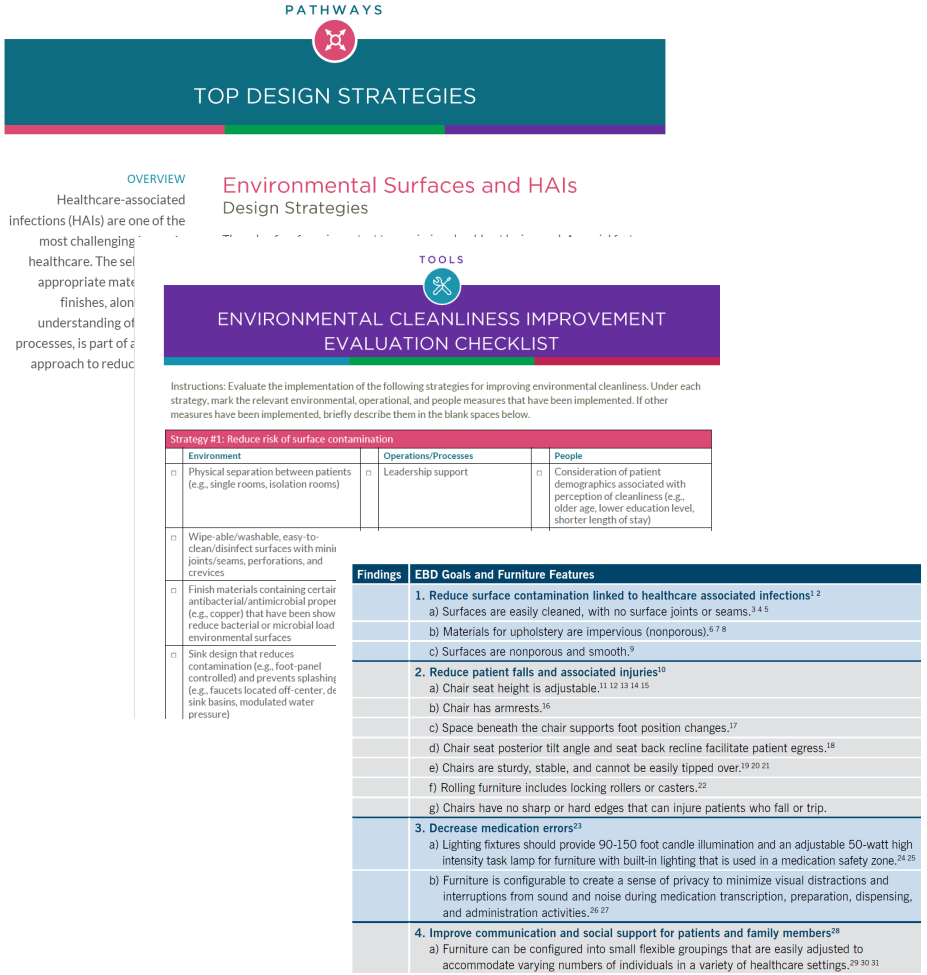
Link to CHD Infection Control Toolbox

Link to Design Strategies Around Infection Control from WHO, CDC, and FGI featuring

- Surface finishes
- Choosing furniture for ease of cleaning
- Cleaning practices

Link to Environmental Cleanliness Improvement Evaluation Checklist

Link to Design Features and Healthcare Outcomes/Evaluation



PATHWAYS

TOP DESIGN STRATEGIES

OVERVIEW

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are one of the most challenging
healthcare. The sel
appropriate mate
finishes, alon
understanding of
processes, is part of
approach to reduc

Environmental Surfaces and HAIs

Design Strategies

TOOLS

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS IMPROVEMENT EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Instructions: Evaluate the implementation of the following strategies for improving environmental cleanliness. Under each strategy, mark the relevant environmental, operational, and people measures that have been implemented. If other measures have been implemented, briefly describe them in the blank spaces below.

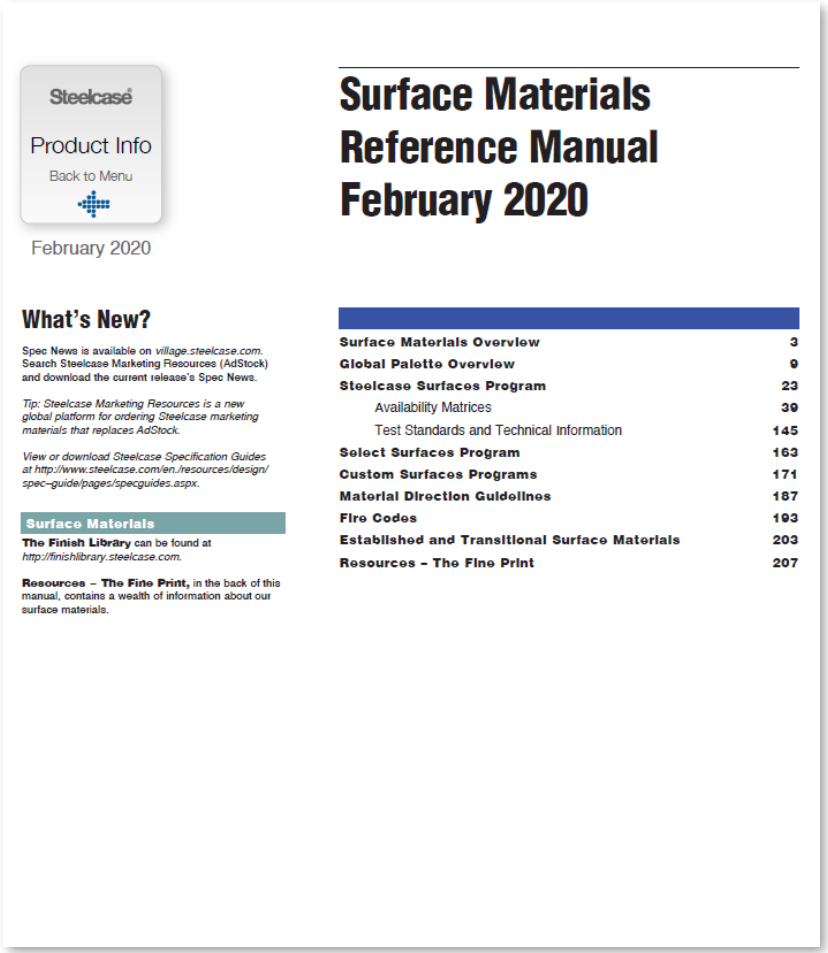
Strategy #1: Reduce risk of surface contamination

	Environment		Operations/Processes		People
□	Physical separation between patients (e.g., single rooms, isolation rooms)	□	Leadership support	□	Consideration of patient demographics associated with perception of cleanliness (e.g., older age, lower education level, shorter length of stay)
□	Wipe-able/washable, easy-to-clean/disinfect surfaces with minii joints/seams, perforations, and crevices				
□	Finish materials containing certair antibacterial/antimicrobial proper (e.g., copper) that have been show reduce bacterial or microbial load environmental surfaces				
□	Sink design that reduces contamination (e.g., foot-panel controlled) and prevents splashing (e.g., faucets located off-center, de sink basins, modulated water pressure)				

Findings	EBD Goals and Furniture Features
	1. Reduce surface contamination linked to healthcare associated infections[1 2]
	a) Surfaces are easily cleaned, with no surface joints or seams.[3 4 5]
	b) Materials for upholstery are impervious (nonporous).[6 7 8]
	c) Surfaces are nonporous and smooth.[9]
	2. Reduce patient falls and associated injuries[10]
	a) Chair seat height is adjustable.[11 12 13 14 15]
	b) Chair has armrests.[16]
	c) Space beneath the chair supports foot position changes.[17]
	d) Chair seat posterior tilt angle and seat back recline facilitate patient egress.[18]
	e) Chairs are sturdy, stable, and cannot be easily tipped over.[19 20 21]
	f) Rolling furniture includes locking rollers or casters.[22]
	g) Chairs have no sharp or hard edges that can injure patients who fall or trip.
	3. Decrease medication errors[23]
	a) Lighting fixtures should provide 90-150 foot candle illumination and an adjustable 50-watt high intensity task lamp for furniture with built-in lighting that is used in a medication safety zone.[24 25]
	b) Furniture is configurable to create a sense of privacy to minimize visual distractions and interruptions from sound and noise during medication transcription, preparation, dispensing, and administration activities.[26 27]
	4. Improve communication and social support for patients and family members[28]
	a) Furniture can be configured into small flexible groupings that are easily adjusted to accommodate varying numbers of individuals in a variety of healthcare settings.[29 30 31]

Steelcase Surface Material Cleaning Instructions

The cleaning guidelines for Steelcase products that we've always included in our Surface Materials Reference Manual cover major cleaner types but do not make any claims on the level of disinfection. We've created a condensed version of that manual that includes only the pages with cleaning information



Steelcase

Product Info

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February 2020

What's New?

Spec News is available on *village.steelcase.com*. Search Steelcase Marketing Resources (AdStock) and download the current release's Spec News.

Tip: Steelcase Marketing Resources is a new global platform for ordering Steelcase marketing materials that replaces AdStock.

View or download Steelcase Specification Guides at http://www.steelcase.com/en./resources/design/spec-guide/pages/specguides.aspx.

Surface Materials

The Finish Library can be found at *http://finishlibrary.steelcase.com.*

Resources – The Fine Print, in the back of this manual, contains a wealth of information about our surface materials.

Surface Materials Reference Manual February 2020

Healthier Hospitals Healthy Interiors

What is our HH Healthy Interiors Goal?

The goal requires participating hospitals to ensure that 30 percent of the annual volume of furnishings and furniture purchases (based on cost) eliminate the use of formaldehyde, perfluorinated compounds, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), antimicrobials, and all flame retardants.

Why Safer Chemicals?

Hazardous chemicals are found in many products used in health care. These chemicals can be released throughout the lifecycle of a product, from manufacture, during use, and as part of disposal. Some of these chemicals have been linked to cancer, birth defects, asthma and a variety of other health problems.

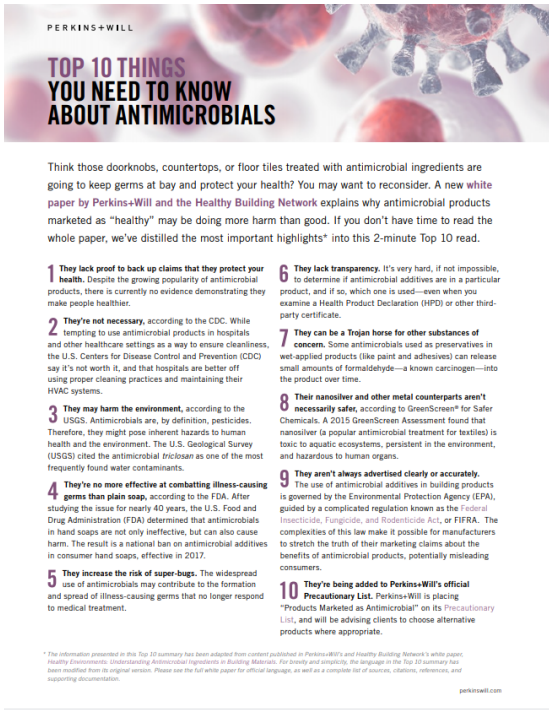
Click on link for more information

Healthier Hospitals is working with hospitals to eliminate the use of products containing these chemicals and switch to safer alternatives in order to improve the health of patients, staff and communities. Scientific research shows that exposure to hazardous chemicals found in the environment, our homes and workplaces increases the risk of various diseases in the general population. Harmful chemicals like mercury, flame retardants, perfluorinated chemicals, and DEHP, among others, are present in many health care products, furniture and fabrics.

Healthier Hospitals has identified key ways to begin to eliminate these chemicals from the health care setting. Safer Chemicals Healthier Hospitals is challenging hospitals to take on four measurable goals to help hospitals protect people and the environment from harmful chemicals. These goals have been selected for their positive impact on human health and the environment, for their ability to drive an increased demand for healthier products in the marketplaces and because safer and well performing alternatives are available. By switching to safe and effective alternatives, hospitals can create a healthier environment for patients, staff members and communities. Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals can also lower disposal costs and limits liability.

Perkins+Will Antimicrobial Research

PERKINS+WILL



PERKINS+WILL

TOP 10 THINGS
YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT ANTIMICROBIALS

Think those doorknobs, countertops, or floor tiles treated with antimicrobial ingredients are going to keep germs at bay and protect your health? You may want to reconsider. A new white paper by Perkins+Will and the Healthy Building Network explains why antimicrobial products marketed as "healthy" may be doing more harm than good. If you don't have time to read the whole paper, we've distilled the most important highlights* into this 2-minute Top 10 read.

1 **They lack proof to back up claims that they protect your health.** Despite the growing popularity of antimicrobial products, there is currently no evidence demonstrating they make people healthier.

2 **They're not necessary,** according to the CDC. While tempting to use antimicrobial products in hospitals and other healthcare settings as a way to ensure cleanliness, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say it's not worth it, and that hospitals are better off using proper cleaning practices and maintaining their HVAC systems.

3 **They may harm the environment,** according to the USGS. Antimicrobials are, by definition, pesticides. Therefore, they might pose inherent hazards to human health and the environment. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) cited the antimicrobial *triclosan* as one of the most frequently found water contaminants.

4 **They're no more effective at combatting illness-causing germs than plain soap,** according to the FDA. After studying the issue for nearly 40 years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that antimicrobials in hand soaps are not only ineffective, but can also cause harm. The result is a national ban on antimicrobial additives in consumer hand soaps, effective in 2017.

5 **They increase the risk of super-bugs.** The widespread use of antimicrobials may contribute to the formation and spread of illness-causing germs that no longer respond to medical treatment.

6 **They lack transparency.** It's very hard, if not impossible, to determine if antimicrobial additives are in a particular product, and if so, which one is used—even when you examine a Health Product Declaration (HPD) or other third-party certificate.

7 **They can be a Trojan horse for other substances of concern.** Some antimicrobials used as preservatives in wet-applied products (like paint and adhesives) can release small amounts of formaldehyde—a known carcinogen—into the product over time.

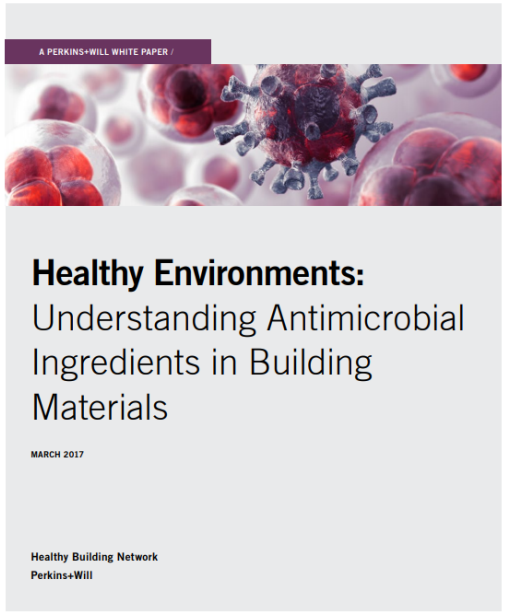
8 **Their nanosilver and other metal counterparts aren't necessarily safer,** according to GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals. A 2015 GreenScreen Assessment found that nanosilver (a popular antimicrobial treatment for textiles) is toxic to aquatic ecosystems, persistent in the environment, and hazardous to human organs.

9 **They aren't always advertised clearly or accurately.** The use of antimicrobial additives in building products is governed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), guided by a complicated regulation known as the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA. The complexities of this law make it possible for manufacturers to stretch the truth of their marketing claims about the benefits of antimicrobial products, potentially misleading consumers.

10 **They're being added to Perkins+Will's official Precautionary List.** Perkins+Will is placing "Products Marketed as Antimicrobial" on its Precautionary List, and will be advising clients to choose alternative products where appropriate.

* The information presented in this Top 10 summary has been adapted from content published in Perkins+Will's and Healthy Building Network's white paper, *Healthy Environments: Understanding Antimicrobial Ingredients in Building Materials*. For brevity and simplicity, the language in the Top 10 summary has been modified from its original version. Please see the full white paper for official language, as well as a complete list of sources, citations, references, and supporting documentation.

perkinswill.com



A PERKINS+WILL WHITE PAPER /

Healthy Environments:
Understanding Antimicrobial Ingredients in Building Materials

MARCH 2017

Healthy Building Network
Perkins+Will

PERKINS+WILL

Banning Antimicrobial Agents

KAISER PERMANENTE

With no proof that antimicrobial-treated furniture and fabrics improve infection prevention, health care system bans 15 chemicals from use in interior products. "Our thought is that if there's a nonchemical way to solve a problem or there are greener products available that offer the same performance, we should pursue those as safer alternatives."

– John Kouletsis
VP, Facilities, Planning & Design
Kaiser Permanente

Click link for more info

Banning use of antimicrobial agents for infection control

With no proof that antimicrobial-treated furniture and fabrics improve infection prevention, health care system bans 15 chemicals from use in interior products.

OAKLAND, Calif. — Concerned about mounting exposure to toxic chemicals in everyday life and the threat of drug-resistant bacteria, Kaiser Permanente has banned paint and other interior building products treated with "germ-fighting" antimicrobial agents for use in its hospitals and other buildings.

Additional Resources

Link to Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care Facilities

Link to Healthcare Infection Control Practice Advisory Committee

Link to Glossary of terms

Link to Steelcase FAQs

Designtex Resources

Link to Designtex

Link to Designtex sustainability

Link to high-performance bleach-cleanable textiles

Link to Designtex Cleaning Manual

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HEALTH