

The Truth About Cleaning & Surface Hygiene In Public Facilities

Labor and performance-effective surface care requires understanding the nature of everyday soil, microbes, the chemistry of water and water residues...and their impact on surfaces.



No matter how much we clean, sanitize or disinfect surfaces, we cannot prevent their re-soiling or re-contamination. Daily dirt, grime and germ-containing organic soil just keep coming back; particularly in high-traffic public facilities. Surface soil is either water-soluble, oil soluble or water & oil insoluble. It is the water insoluble soil that presents the greatest cleaning challenge.



Surface-contact bacteria, virus and fungi are invariably deposited in conjunction with some form of organic soil (including fingerprints, foods & liquids, body wastes, coughing and sneezing). They are easily and quickly spread to other surfaces and to other people by hand-to-hand, hand-to-surface, surface-to-hand and hand-to-body orifice contact.

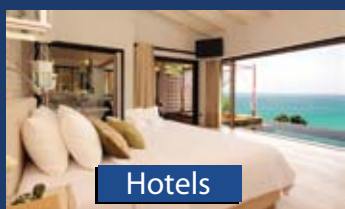


The thousands of germ species are absolutely invisible to the naked eye. Without microscopic analysis, they cannot be identified for removal. Since it is impossible to “flood” the multitude of vertical or rounded surfaces that are amongst the most contaminated of all surfaces, they are not being disinfected by immersion-type disinfectants!

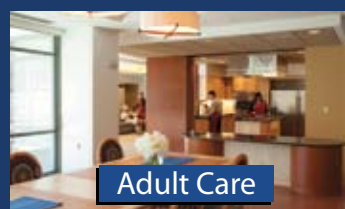
Why Shield Surfaces? Because even hard surfaces are like sponges; they have microscopic pores that trap water, organic & inorganic soil that build up, form biofilms and become increasingly unsightly and difficult to remove. By shielding surfaces, it protects them with invisible water, soil & stain repellent barrier coatings that dramatically reduce the penetration, adhesion & buildup of re-soiling for easier next-time cleaning!



Even municipal tap water (while potable) contains enough residual chemicals and minerals that – when evaporated – promotes the adhesion and build-up of lime scale, rust, calcium and soap scum on plumbing surfaces, mirrors and windows. Exterior glass ages from weathering and the abrasive action of particulates combined with chemically-active rain.



In use test after use test, in spite of exaggerated claims being made for them, the typical factory-applied “anti-soil” coatings on glass and other surfaces exhibit only marginal initial improvement in chemical and physical resistance compared to untreated surfaces.



Laboratory tests of cleaners, coatings and disinfectants that do not replicate their real world use and exposure invariably yield performance and durability claims that are at least misleading, if not totally false.

To improve surface care and surface hygiene, we must take the guesswork out of cleaning and sanitation. By cleaning the soil that you can see, you take care of the germs and biofilms that you cannot see! This saves time, labor and the excessive use of costly chemicals. This can be accomplished with products that clean surfaces and simultaneously apply a water & soil repellent finish that shields surfaces and makes them as easy to clean as non-stick pots and pans.

Until the invention of glass, porcelains, ceramics, plastics, laminates, chrome and stainless steel that will permanently resist the ravages of water, soil and the aggressive cleaners needed to clean them, it is false and misleading to suggest that integrated finishes are “permanent” and will solve the problem of everyday soiling. Accordingly, it remains that RENEWABLE water and soil repellent coatings are the only viable technique for the preservation, enhancement and “preventive cleaning” of surfaces in public facilities.