

INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL: Selecting the best flooring solution

Contributing
to a good
hospital
hygiene



FIGHTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIONS

The Covid-19 crisis has put the spotlight on the importance of hand hygiene and environmental cleaning to prevent the spread of infections in health and elderly care facilities.

It has led to an overuse of disinfectants and an increased demand for antimicrobial materials **increasing the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) development** that poses a **human health risk**.

The purpose of Infection prevention and control (IPC) is to prevent Healthcare associated infections (HAI) and to avoid the increase of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Selecting the right materials and implementing proper cleaning regimes are the prerequisite of an efficient infection prevention and control.

Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) are probably the biggest global public health challenges of our time.

HAI

Healthcare-associated infections are infections acquired by patients during their stay at a hospital. It happens when several factors are gathered: presence of microorganisms in hospital environments + transmission of pathogens between staff and patients and among patients + vulnerable patient.

1 in 10 hospital patients is affected by HAI each year and 4 million patients across Europe (WHO*).

AMR

Antimicrobial resistance is the ability of microorganisms to become resistant to anti-microbial agents such as antibiotic & biocides.

There are 37,000 deaths associated to HAI in Europe annually, 70% of which are due to antibiotic-resistant microorganisms called 'superbugs' (WHO*).

If no action is taken, AMR attributed deaths could reach 10 million per year in 2050 (WHO*).

*World Health Organisation

CLEAN FLOORS FOR CLEAN HOSPITALS

About 80% of infectious diseases are transmitted by unclean hands touching contaminated surfaces. (CDC, Center for Disease Control and Prevention).

Washing hands and the surfaces they touch (high touch surfaces) is the fundamental 1st step.

And although **floors**, being low touch surfaces, are not as critical, they obviously **must be kept clean**. So they must be chosen with cleanliness in mind.

They should be easy to clean to avoid dirt build up (as soil is a major nutrient for microorganisms) and to withstand repeated cleaning and disinfection protocols.

HERE IS YOUR FLOORING REQUIREMENTS CHECK LIST:

- Smooth & non porous surface with minimal joints to prevent dirt build up
- Perfect coving + hot welded, durable joints for watertight installations
- Resistance to repeated use of disinfectants (Quaternary Ammonium, Alcohol, Bleach, Hydrogen Peroxide...)
- Easy to repair material. In case of damage, fix on the spot and secure tightness without changing the whole floor.





ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING, ANOTHER KEY COMPONENT OF INFECTION CONTROL

Once the proper surfaces are in place, it will be key to define and implement the right cleaning regime.



CLEANING IS FUNDAMENTAL

Never forget that the basis of a good protocol is to properly clean surfaces. The appropriate cleaning method should consist of dust mopping to remove dust and debris, followed by wet mopping with a detergent to clean.

Floors are low-touch surfaces that rarely come in contact with the hands of patients/residents or healthcare staff. So **under normal circumstances, the use of a disinfectant is not required** and a good cleaning protocol is sufficient.



DISINFECT, AFTER CLEANING, WHEN NEEDED ONLY

In **some areas and circumstances**, and only in these cases (high infectious risk and contaminated areas in outbreak situations), **disinfection, in addition to cleaning, is needed.**

However disinfection without cleaning will be useless since most disinfectants lose their effectiveness rapidly in the presence of organic matter.

ANTIBACTERIAL PROPERTIES: THE FACTS

Our iQ products don't favour the growth of bacteria, they are **bacteriostatic**, **without using any biocides** (ISO 846 / Fraunhofer report).

Biocides are a controversial topic. Their efficiency has not been proven while there is a risk of encouraging antimicrobial resistance if unnecessarily used.

FOCUS ON BIOCIDES

- Viruses are different to bacteria. And like antibiotics, antibacterial products are ineffective against viruses.
- The overuse and misuse of antibacterial agents like antibiotics and biocides, may lead to antimicrobial resistance.
- Although a range of antimicrobial-impregnated products (such as surface coatings, paints and curtains) are available, there is, at present, no definitive data to support their efficiency in Healthcare associated Infections.
- Furthermore, standards often used to explain their use and role, such as ISO 22196, are deemed inappropriate to test antimicrobial surfaces.

Visit our website for more info on biocides.

TARKETT'S POSITION ON BIOCIDES

We identified the use of biocides as a major risk to health and the environment and therefore decided to:

- **Stop adding antimicrobials in our flooring production in 2013**
- Actively promote the importance of **appropriate cleaning**
- Recommend the use of **disinfectants - only where & when necessary**
- Promote **alternative solutions** using low chemicals & disinfectants such as microfibers, steam cleaning.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FLOORS

Whilst considering the relevant criteria to ensure efficient cleaning, there are several product categories which tick different boxes but **when you look at serious & high risk areas, vinyl rolls are the most appropriate solution.**

Vinyl rolls are the most suitable floorings for serious and very high risk area

	Seamless and smooth	Coving	Welded Joints resistance	Chemical resistance	Low Risk Area	Medium Risk Area	Serious Risk Area	Very high Risk Area
Homogeneous Vinyl (sheet)	***	***	***	***	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Heterogeneous Vinyl (sheet)	***	***	**	***	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Linoleum (sheet)	**	*	*	***	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✗
Rubber (sheet)	*	*	*	**	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✗
LVT	-	-	-	***	✓✓	✗	✗	✗
Carpet	-	-	-	-	✓✓	✗	✗	✗
Wood	-	-	-	-	✓✓	✗	✗	✗
Ceramic	-	-	-	***	✓✓	✗	✗	✗

*** Excellent

** Good

* Poor

- Bad

✓✓✓ Highly recommended

✓✓ Suitable

✗ Not suitable

iQ, THE FLOORING SOLUTIONS THAT EXCEED THE MOST DEMANDING REQUIREMENTS

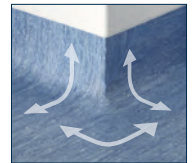
EXCELLENT CLEANABILITY

Highest level of performance reached thanks to a **smooth surface** (proven by Fraunhofer).



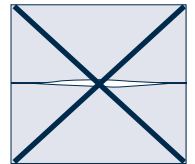
PERFECT WATERTIGHTNESS

Unmatchable flexibility: perfect coving, hot welded joint and ease of repair.



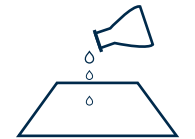
DURABLE JOINTS

Outstanding seam strength (3 times above standard) preventing from joint opening.



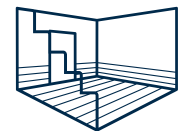
HIGH CHEMICAL RESISTANCE

Resistance to the most **demanding disinfectants** (Quaternary ammoniums, Alcohol, Bleach, Hydrogen peroxide,...).



FULL SOLUTION

Floors, walls & accessories. Easy to match and heat weld with our wall covering solutions (ProtectWall and Wallgard) to ensure a fully watertight system.




iQ also has **very low VOC emissions** and is **phthalate-free** contributing to good indoor air quality.

It is **extremely durable** and **fully recyclable** even post-use.

It therefore provides the **lowest life-cycle costs** on the market.

Tarkett iQ range is tangible proof of our years of experience in healthcare, providing efficient solutions specific for the sector.





Efficient infection prevention and control is part of our **Tarkett Human-Conscious Design™** approach. Efficient solutions that care for both people and the environment.

We are committed to:

- Creating a **circular economy**.
Closing the loop on waste, preserving our planet's natural resources and reducing the impact on climate change.
- Only using **good materials**.
Subjecting ourselves to relentless scientific scrutiny and offering radical transparency about our products.
- Your **health and wellbeing**.
Creating healthy indoor spaces with the highest standards of Indoor Air Quality.

iQ Toro SC, Bursa city hospital, Turkey

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