

Floors & Infection Prevention and Control



Contamination

80%

of infectious diseases transmission is from **hands** touching contaminated surfaces

- **Wash hands regularly and thoroughly**
- **Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces meticulously**

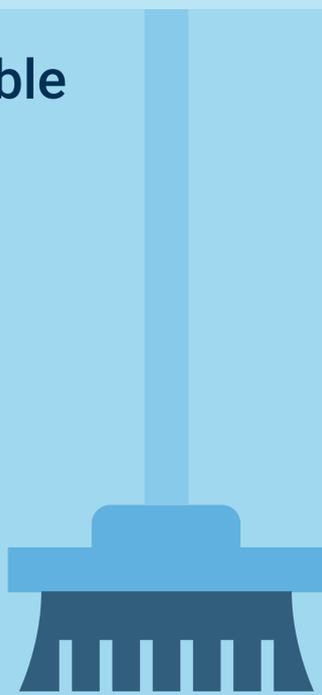
countertops, handrails, doors & handles, switches and buttons, bathroom fixtures

Floors must be highly cleanable

As low touch surfaces, floors must primarily be kept clean to avoid the development of bacteria.

An hygienic flooring is:

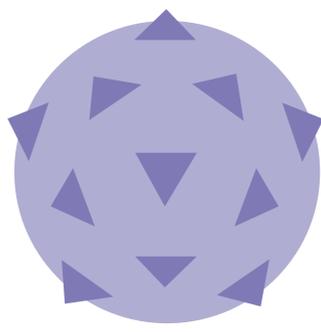
- Smooth and non-porous
- Watertight with sealed joints
- Resistant to chemicals, antiseptics and disinfectants
- Bacteriostatic – that does not favour bacteria growth



Is it worth using flooring with antimicrobial coatings?

Antimicrobials

Antimicrobials are products that kill or slow the growth of microorganisms. There are two types: **antibiotics**, that combat bacterial infections in humans or animals, and **biocides**, such as disinfectants, antiseptics and preservatives.



Effective for targeted infection control



Widespread use contributes to Antibiotic/Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

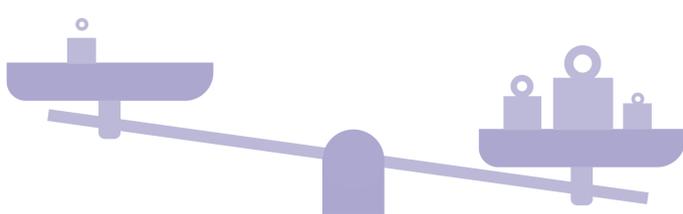
Some flooring include built-in antimicrobials such as silver ions, zinc pyrithione, titanium dioxide, etc... But is it a good idea?

LOW BENEFITS

- Floors are low-touch surfaces
- Efficacy in reducing infections is unproven
- Tested in unrealistic laboratory conditions

HIGH RISK

- Increase risk of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Release toxic compounds into the environment



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS IN FLOORING](#)

Let's call for a responsible use of antimicrobials!

Beware of catchy marketing claims. Make an informed choice.

CLEANING IS KEY!

- Select easy-to-clean floors & surfaces
- Choose chemically resistant floors & surfaces
- Favour flooring with bacteriostatic properties
- Good cleaning is more efficient than bad disinfection



USE BIOCIDES WISELY

- Avoid flooring containing antimicrobials
- Use disinfectants only where and when required

[LEARN MORE ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL AND FLOORING CHOICES](#)