

DESIGNING FOR INFECTION CONTROL IN THE WORKPLACE



THE MATERIAL DIFFERENCE

Material selection plays a large role in infection control and disease prevention. Durable materials that are easy to clean and inhibit bacterial growth contribute to healthy and sustainable environments.

COVID-19 Disinfection Protocols/ Material Selection

- Easy to clean and disinfect
- Corrosion resistant
- Durable construction

Multi-attribute Approach

- Service Life
- Environmental Considerations
- Health and Safety

The right materials can mean the difference between healthy spaces and premature product failures, unbudgeted costs, and negative health outcomes.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Cleaning vs Sanitizing vs Disinfecting



Cleaning removes dust and other microorganisms – accomplished with water, detergents, and mechanical action and is an essential first step before disinfection.



Sanitizing is a form of germ control that reduces bacteria but not SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses.



Disinfecting inactivates SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens. It often involves chemicals, heat, or UV.

Consult the [EPA recommended list of disinfectants](#).

TEAM EFFORT

Essential Coordination and Education Required

C-Suite / Owners

Architects / Designers

Property Management and Cleaning Staff

Employees

DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

What to Do Now



- Identify high-touch surfaces and items.
- Reduce person-to-person contact.
- Set effective cleaning protocols.
- Configure spaces for social distancing considering traffic flow and workstations.

Planning for the Future



- Design spaces with social distancing in mind.
- Evaluate all materials and surfaces for their ability to handle cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
- Consider selecting nonporous materials for all high-touch surfaces for durability and to reduce the spread of infection.

COVID-19 impacts public health and affects future design considerations.

Smart design means easy-to-clean materials

Nonporous materials reduce opportunities to trap pathogens

<p>Surfaces Durable solid core worktops</p>	<p>Flooring Waterproof vinyl sheet, tile, and planks</p>	<p>Seating Cleanable vinyl coated fabrics</p>	<p>Partitions Versatile plastic dividers</p>
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DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

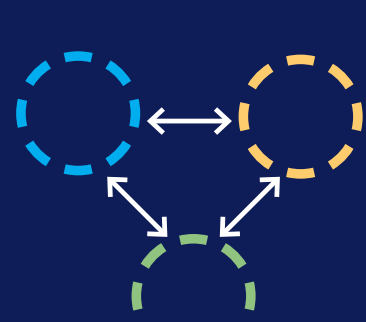
From Operations to Materials

Operational-based Design

Social distancing

Safety checks

Social zones / shared spaces



Material selection options for spaces requiring regular disinfection include: elastomeric or vinyl-coated furniture and thermally fused tabletops

LEARN MORE

[Whitepaper: The Role of Material Selection in Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Spaces](#)