



DESIGNING FOR INFECTION CONTROL IN THE WORKPLACE

The Material Difference

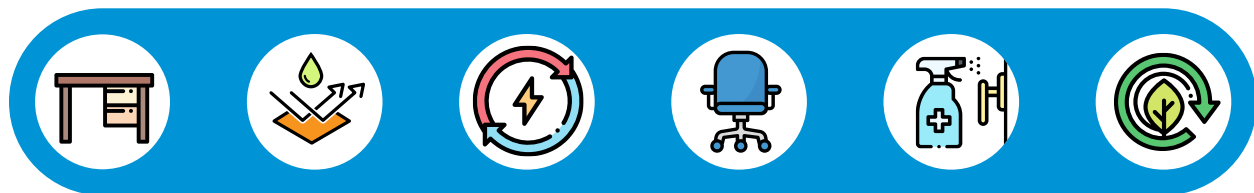
Material selection plays a large role in infection control and disease prevention. Durable materials that are easy to clean and inhibit bacterial growth contribute to healthy and sustainable environments.

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. View the Quick Reference Guide at bit.ly/VVRefGuide.

Cleaning vs Sanitizing vs Disinfecting: Know the Difference



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 at bit.ly/VVEPADisinfectants.

Team Effort

Essential coordination and education are required for:



C-Suite / Owners



Property Management
and Cleaning Staff



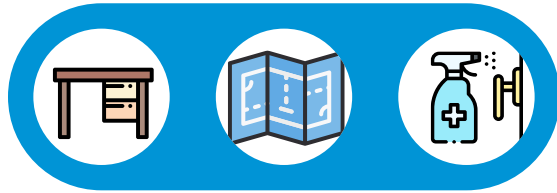
Architects / Designers



Employees

Design Implications

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



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.

Smart Design Means Easy-to-Clean Materials

Nonporous materials reduce opportunities to trap pathogens.



Surfaces

Durable solid core worktops



Flooring

Waterproof vinyl sheet, tile, and planks



Seating

Cleanable vinyl coated fabrics



Partitions

Versatile plastic dividers

Design Considerations — From Operations to Materials

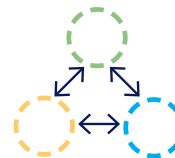
Nonporous materials reduce Operational-based design includes:



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. A Flow Chart on Design Implications based on Operational Implications can be viewed online at bit.ly/VVWorkplace1.

Learn More

The Whitepaper The Role of Material Selection in Cleaning and Disinfection of Public Spaces can be viewed online at bit.ly/VVDisinfectionPaper.



1747 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 825
Washington, DC 20006
202.765.2200

www.vantagevinyl.com

@VantageVinyl

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