

## THE EFFECTS ON FURNITURE/TEXTILES

Selecting the right textiles and furniture surfaces for healthcare applications goes far beyond disinfection and IPAC protocols. Textiles and furniture surfaces are constantly challenged by the housekeeping protocols and applications. This is a problematic and costly issue that often results in the product being removed from service.

### understand the difference

To ensure product longevity, it is important to understand the difference between cleaning, sterilizing and disinfecting:

- **CLEANING** is clearing debris and deposits from a surface
- **DISINFECTING/STERILIZING** is killing bacteria after the surface has been cleaned + wiped off

Thorough cleaning (with water + detergent/enzyme cleaners) is required before high level disinfecting or sterilizing. This is because inorganic and organic materials that remain on the surfaces interfere with the effectiveness of these processes. Failure to clean is one of the most likely reasons for ineffective surface disinfecting.

### exposed surfaces

When selecting furniture, in addition to the textile, consideration must also be given to the material composition of all exposed surfaces. Materials such as wood, laminate, thermofoil, solid surface, metal, plastic and urethane are commonly utilized in furniture manufacturing and need to be considered when housekeeping protocols are being established.

### ask questions

1. review the performance expectations related to furniture surfaces and the textile
  - what is a reasonable timeframe for in-service use
  - expected durability of the furniture surfaces and the textile when exposed to chemical cleaners
  - understand warranty coverage and exceptions
2. compile a comprehensive list of all exposed surfaces and review with the manufacturer and the client to ensure the approved cleaning + disinfecting solutions/protocols align with the performance expectations
  - what is the disinfectant in use?
  - how often, how strong, how wet + how long is the contact time of the disinfectant applied to the furniture?
  - is the final step a water wash?

## 3-STEP PROCESS



failure to follow these steps will affect furniture surfaces and textile performance