

# **The impact of microfibre technology on the cleaning of healthcare facilities**

**An Association of Domestic Management (ADM) report**

## Executive summary

Trials in Scandinavia and elsewhere in Europe have indicated that the use of cleaning products made from microfibre can help reduce infection and improve standards, productivity and cost effectiveness. This report suggests that the introduction of cleaning systems based on products made using microfibre in UK healthcare facilities would yield similar benefits.

### Benefits

Cleaning products made using microfibre are strong, highly resistant to tearing and snagging and have extremely low levels of linting. These products also have increased suction effect, larger surface area (giving more contact with surface to be cleaned), improved cleaning performance, release smaller amounts of water and only require one wipe.

Cleaning with products made using microfibre can reduce the need for cleaning chemicals, minimise the need for colour coding, improve the visual appearance of areas cleaned, reduce levels of infection and reduce the number of hours required to clean to acceptable standards.

### Challenges

The introduction of cleaning systems featuring products made using microfibre technology requires considerable initial financial outlay and dramatic changes in working practices. Products require effective laundering and concerns have been expressed regarding the efficacy of cleaning products made using microfibre to effectively clean large expanses of corridors, carpeted areas and some high-grip safety flooring. Other challenges include issues surrounding storage, supply and sustainability.

Management teams should not considering implementing cleaning systems based on products using microfibre products unless they have full the commitment of their cleaning team.

### Products available

At present a limited number of companies supply cleaning products made using microfibre. However, this is a new technology and new suppliers will be coming into the market place.

A small number of suppliers also offer cleaning systems based on products using microfibre. **This report concludes that a whole-system approach is almost certainly the best way forward.**

### Using microfibre

Cleaning with products made using microfibre technology is very different from cleaning with conventional products. A cleaning process based on products made using microfibre developed by ISS Mediclean is given below as a best practice example.

Please note that cleaning trolleys should be considered as an integral part of cleaning processes based on products made using microfibre technology. For effective microfibre systems an on-site Laundry is almost essential.





















































