

Healthy Workspaces and Luum Textiles

Many of you have questions around creating and maintaining a safe workplace as we come through the global challenges of dealing the COVID-19 pandemic. Our intent with this communication is to share what we know and help answer your textile related questions.

Question

Do antimicrobial finishes kill the COVID-19 virus?

Answer

No, antimicrobial finishes DO NOT kill COVID-19.

Antimicrobial treatments for textiles are designed to inhibit the growth of bacteria and fungus and do not kill them. COVID-19 is not a bacteria or fungus - it is a VIRUS. A virus replicates by infecting a host cell. Viruses can infect many types of cells that are not inhibited by antimicrobials. Antimicrobials then will not be effective overall in inhibiting the growth of COVID-19, and will not kill COVID-19.

In addition, antimicrobial products used on textiles are regulated by the EPA as pesticides. Luum promotes a healthy work environment, and as such, we do not promote the use of added antimicrobial finishes.

Luum Textiles and Covid-19

Can the COVID-19 virus survive on a surface?

Yes, a virus can survive on a surface but cannot replicate without a living host. Scientists disagree on how long the COVID-19 virus can survive on a surface - early evidence suggests it can vary from hours to days. Clean “high touch” surfaces like doorknobs, electronics and shared tables first.

Regular Preventative Cleaning, like regular handwashing, can be very effective. Many fabrics can be cleaned with soap and water if “W” and “WS” is listed as a cleaning code. See links below for instructions given by Health Canada and the Center for Disease Control.

What are my options for disinfecting fabrics?

Bleach can be an effective disinfectant when used properly. Luum has many fabrics that are bleach cleanable. See our “Performance” filter on luumtextiles.com and click the “Bleach Cleanable” search option. **Important: Follow the correct “bleach to water” ratio listed in the specs. ALWAYS wipe or rinse with clean water** after using a bleach/water solution. Follow the safety precautions and handling directions on the bleach product. *Do not use bleach if it is not indicated as safe for use on your chosen fabric.*

Does Luum have any fabrics that can be disinfected with Virex wipes?

Yes. Meta Texture, Monotex, Perilune, Synaptic, Top Coat and Ultra Durable are coated fabrics. Disrupt, Iterate, Schema and Vital are wovens. Please see the “Care and Maintenance” section in the “Resource” tab on our Luum website for information on tested cleaners for High Performance Polyurethane and Silicone. Always rinse with clean water after using any disinfectant to prevent damage.

Resources

Canada

Health Canada Coronavirus Disease Cleaning & Disinfecting Public Spaces
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/cleaning-disinfecting-public-spaces.html>

United States

The Centers for Disease Control “Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility”
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

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Visit the Luum website for additional information including warranty, terms & conditions and ordering information. For textiles inquiries, please contact Luum customer service.