

BioCote® Limited offer anti-microbial solutions using silver based technology to minimise the risk of cross contamination

Several studies have shown that the working environment of a clinical microbiology laboratory is often extensively and heavily contaminated with pathogenic organisms originating from the work in progress. Despite apparently good standards of laboratory performance and hygiene, antibiotic-resistant species may be widely encountered on working surfaces, doors and handles, telephones, computer terminals, and on the floor. Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and vancomycin resistant enterococci have been identified together with other, though less newsworthy, pathogens (Collins, Hacek, Degen *et al*, 2004).# None of these should escape the microbiology laboratory. High standards of hygiene and cleanliness must be maintained at all times, and the laboratory cleaners instructed to clear all detritus swept from the floor, and all used cleaning materials, to an appropriate receptacle for disposal as potentially infectious laboratory waste. Storage and treatment areas for laboratory wastes must be kept clean at all times, and should be designed and constructed so as to facilitate effective decontamination in the event of spillage.

BioCote® is the market leader in the field of anti-microbial solutions offering users access to total hygienic solutions. BioCote® technology is unique in the marketplace. BioCote® can offer tailor made solutions to suit all applications and materials including powder coating, polymers, laminates and fibres etc.

BioCote Limited are pioneers in developing novel solutions to meet the needs of a hygiene conscious society and those involved with hygiene at all levels. BioCote® solutions are available to manufacturers and users in all sectors where hygiene is critical or desirable. BioCote provides a second line of defence against microbial cross-contamination.

BioCote® technology is based on the active agent silver, which is widely used in the healthcare sector for a number of years. BioCote® is safe, durable, long lasting and will not leach, wear or rub out.

The active agents used in BioCote® products are incorporated during the various manufacturing processes and are therefore present and active for the life of the product/material.

A rigorous validation and quality control programme is in place and all testing is conducted by independent laboratories, this ensures the anti-microbial performance of all BioCote® products.

Technical

BioCote® incorporates the active agent silver, which has been used extensively in Hospitals as an excellent anti-microbial with low toxicity against non-target organisms. The active agent silver used in BioCote® products does not function in the same way as antibiotics and therefore no bacteria have become resistant to BioCote® as they can to some antibiotics.

Silver is shown to inhibit the growth of micro-organisms thus forming an effective part of good hygienic practice. It is essential that BioCote® is used in conjunction with good cleaning procedures.

BioCote® technology is independently tested and is effective against a wide range of both gram positive and gram negative bacteria and fungi.

Products treated with BioCote® have been tested for the simulated life of the product/material with no significant reduction in the anti microbial performance noted, therefore demonstrating the anti microbial efficacy for the life of the product/material.



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#Collins SM, Hacek DM, Degen LA, Wright MO, Noskin GA, Peterson LR. Contamination of the clinical microbiology laboratory with vancomycin-resistant enterococci and multidrug-resistant Enterobacteriaceae: implications for hospital and laboratory workers. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 2001; 39: 3772-3774.