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Common Sense

Heads Up On LEED v4

Dirty Money
How Contaminated Is It?
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INSIDE ISSA

HAND HYGIENE
Dirty Money – How Contaminated Is It? The phrase “dirty money” may have different meanings for different people but, as far as microbiology is concerned, have you ever thought about what else you are getting back along with your change?

PEST CONTROL
Flying the Coup: How to Keep Birds from Nesting at Your Site. From hanging feeders to watching them on nature hikes, birds are one of the few pests that we often seek out. Many people don’t see them as a nuisance and some even raise them as pets.

GREEN CLEANING
Heads Up On LEED v4. In May 2013, the Canada Green Building Council proudly announced that Canada had reached a milestone of 1000 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) – certified projects. The certified buildings range from single-family homes, apartments and condos to office towers, and from schools and arenas to retail outlets and industrial complexes.

IN THE FIELD
Cleaning & Disinfecting Common Sense. Environmental services and housekeeping staff are the professionals teamed with infection control specialists that oversee our daily health. This fact is reflected extensively in the long-term care industry. Each day we share contamination from the air we breathe, the surfaces we touch and the food we eat.

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ISSA Applauds Representatives for Addressing Strategic Sourcing

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed legislation that requires investigation of the negative impact of the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI) on America’s small-business industrial base. The bill also requires the government’s justification for a strategic sourcing solicitation to be publicly-released prior to the actual solicitation.

ISSA applauds Representatives Grace Meng (D-NY) and Tim Walberg (R-MI) for their leadership in promoting the new requirements as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (HR 4435).

Under the FSSI, General Services Administration (GSA) is working with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and all federal government agencies to create 10 new government-wide FSSI programs for commonly-purchased products and services. One of these new programs will be for jansan products and supplies, such as general purpose and glass cleaners, trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper, mops, floor buffers, etc.

A second category is for maintenance, repair and operations – or MRO – supplies, and includes supplies and equipment (excluding services) such as bathroom fixtures, hardware, power tools, pipes, valves, electrical equipment, lighting, etc.

GSA is also considering implementing an FSSI program for commercial cleaning services. The current implementation of these initiatives will result in severe economic losses in the commercial cleaning industry.

ISSA appreciates the need for government savings and more efficient federal purchasing, the administration's current approach to FSSI is misguided because it decreases the opportunity for many small businesses as well as veteran-, women- and minority-owned businesses to compete for federal contracts, giving a few large companies...
BACKPACKS GO FURTHER

ACHIEVE MORE. USE PROTEAM.
To further strengthen visitors’ return on investment ISSA has expanded attendee attractions for this year’s ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America being held Nov. 4 to 7, 2014, in Orlando, FL.

Last year, based on attendee requests for more time to spend with exhibitors, ISSA successfully extended the trade show schedule and centralized the experience by locating the keynote speaker stage right on the trade show floor. In addition to bringing those benefits back in 2014, ISSA is stepping up its game with a new round of exciting additions in Orlando. Full details are available at www.issa.com/show.

This year’s show will feature the largest number of exhibitors in show history (find them at www.issa.com/exhibitors), plus four keynote addresses, an expanded four-day education schedule, the inaugural ISSA Excellence Awards Luncheon, an ISSA LinkedIn Reception, more co-located industry events, and discounted theme park tickets for attendees present on the final exhibit day.

ISSA has scheduled a Fabulous Friday Finale featuring two iconic keynote speakers during the final exhibit day: champion basketball coach Rick Pitino, co-sponsored by the Building Service Contractors Association International (BSCAI), and famed former boxing champion Sugar Ray Leonard.

Leonard will headline the new ISSA Excellence Awards Luncheon at the close of Friday’s exhibit when the 2014 ISSA Innovation Award Program winners and Best Customer Service Award winners will be revealed. ISSA members that have reached significant member milestones will also be honored during the complimentary luncheon.

The complimentary luncheon on Friday is sponsored by the American Association of Cleaning Equipment Manufacturers (AACE), which is comprised of the following exhibitors: Amano Pioneer Eclipse Corp.; Aztec Products Inc.; IPC Eagle Corp.; Kärcher North America Inc.; Minuteman International Inc.; Nilfisk-Advance; NSS Enterprises Inc.; ProTeam Inc.; and Tennant Co. Attendees must select this event during their registration to guarantee a seat.

Friday’s attendees also will have a chance of winning a photo opportunity with Pitino, as well as one of multiple autographed boxing gloves from Leonard.

ISSA Applauds Representatives for Addressing Strategic Sourcing

ISSA Applauds Representatives for Addressing Strategic Sourcing

greater market share that will lead to price increases over time.

FSSI will also erode America’s small-business industrial base, which is counter to our nation’s national security.

“Quantifying the impacts of FSSI on America’s small-business industrial base will help allow informed discussions regarding how GSA and other federal agencies can achieve the goal of increased purchasing efficiency while ensuring FSSI does not economically harm the cleaning industry and America’s small business industrial base,” said ISSA Legislative Affairs & Environmental Services Director Bill Balek.

“We look forward to working with the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate on meaningful reforms to the government procurement process that can make the process more efficient and also ensure that small businesses will be able to continue to sell products to the federal government. The recent vote by the House is an important first step in that process.”
The phrase “dirty money” may have different meanings for different people but, as far as microbiology is concerned, have you ever thought about what else you are getting back along with your change? I’m sure most of us are more concerned about getting the correct change rather than what microbes come for free with that change. For the few who have thought about what else they may be getting, I suspect that even fewer would answer: “pathogenic and sometimes multi-drug-resistant bacteria, fungi and human parasites.”

In reality, we shouldn’t be surprised that bank notes and coins are contaminated with various bacteria. After all, we hardly expect them to be sterile. Our own hands are colonized with millions of bacteria and money is the most frequently passed item in the world.

All studies that I have come across investigating bacterial contamination on money (paper notes or coins) have found a significant proportion to be contaminated (53 to 100 per cent). I suspect that the microbiological techniques used in the various studies impacted on the results. My personal view is that the majority, if not all money, commonly exchanged between people will be contaminated.

The level of contamination and type of organisms on the money vary depending on the country, season, environmental conditions, type of money (paper vs. coins), type of material the currency is made off, local community flora, general hygiene level of the population and who is likely to be handling the money.

Also dirty/damaged money (indication of frequent exchange) has been shown to be significantly more contaminated than clean and mint condition currency notes. Low denomination notes were more likely to be contaminated than higher denomination notes (probably reflecting frequency of use and socio-economic factors).

The question to be asked, given the above, is: does it matter if money is contaminated with organisms? After all, this is not a new problem.

As early as 1949, Nisbet and Skeoch have highlighted this issue. To answer this we need to look at a number of factors. These include the following:

• What type of organisms are on the money?
• How long are they able to survive?
• Are they able to be transmitted to people and throughout the community from these contaminated currencies.
The Type of Organisms Found on Money

It is expected that bacteria will be found on bank notes and coins regardless of which country the money is from. Studies from Mexico, the United States, India, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Kenya, Burma, China and Turkey, to name but a few, have all found significant contamination on their money.

The type of bacteria found on currency includes: E. coli; Vibrio spp.; Klebsiella spp. including K. pneumoniae; Serratia spp.; Enterobacter sp.; Salmonella spp.; Acinetobacter spp.; Enterococcus spp.; Staphylococcus including S. aureus; Bacillus spp.; Staphylococcus epidermidis; Streptococcus pneumoniae; Proteus spp.; Pseudomonas spp. including P. aeruginosa; Shigella spp.; Corynebacterium; Lactobacillus spp.; Burkholderia cepacia; Microcococcus spp. and Alcaligenes.

Looking at this list, it is clear that some of these bacteria are common environmental bacteria and are considered non-pathogenic. However, many are either potentially pathogenic or common human pathogens. For example, K. pneumoniae is a virulent organism and may cause both community and hospital-acquired infections. Even those organisms not commonly associated with disease in healthy hosts can cause clinically significant infections in immuno-compromised and hospitalized patients. These include even the natural inhabitants of the human skin such as Staphylococcus spp.

The story doesn’t end there since a number of studies have found multi-drug-resistant and virulent strains on money. These have the potential to cause serious infections that are hard to treat, to disseminate in healthcare and community settings, and to spread antimicrobial resistant determinants to other bacteria.

Bacteria are not the only organisms found on money. A number of studies show that fungal contamination of money is also common. Some of these are potentially pathogenic to humans and other life forms including plants. This may have implications far beyond human health to economic consequences if non-native pathogenic species are introduced into different countries via money carried during travel.

Are Organisms Able to be Transmitted from Money?

Transmission of organisms from money is highly significant if it occurs. For example, transmission from the community to the hospital setting is relevant because normally non-pathogenic or opportunistic pathogens can have a serious clinical impact in such settings. On the other hand, transmission from the healthcare environment to the community is relevant when antimicrobial resistant strains (commonly found in hospitals) are involved.

In one study, investigators artificially contaminated bank notes of a number of countries with S. aureus and E. coli, and investigated transmission after three subjects with disinfected hands came into contact with these notes. Transmission was not successful for the Euro notes, but transmission from U.S. Dollars and the Romanian Leu was observed.

So we probably should be concerned with contamination of money especially when virulent, pathogenic or multi-drug-resistant strains are concerned. Transmission between the healthcare and community settings can also have important implications.

What’s the solution? Disinfection of the currencies in banks with UV light, supersonic or chemical means, producing bank notes from materials which inhibit bacterial growth or material with antimicrobial activity as well as replacement of traditional methods of trading with electronic money transactions, have all been proposed. Personally, I think for now, proper hand hygiene and overall hygiene remain the best ways to counter this problem.

Saber Yezli is the Scientific Project Manager of the Healthcare Division of Bioquell UK. Yezli has a first class honours BSc degree in Genetics from Cardiff University (2003) and a PhD on the molecular basis of biocides and antibiotics resistance and susceptibility in bacteria in 2008. His special interest is in multi-drug-resistant non-communicable pathogens, epidemiology and hospital acquired infections, and the role of the environment in the transmission of these infections. He is the author/co-author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, abstracts and invited oral presentations. He is also a member of the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) and European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID).
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Flying The Coup:
How to Keep Birds from Nesting at Your Site

By ALICE SINIA, Ph.D., Resident Entomologist – Regulatory/Lab Services, Orkin Canada

From hanging feeders to watching them on nature hikes, birds are one of the few pests that we often seek out. Many people don’t see them as a nuisance and some even raise them as pets. Like other pests, they play an important role in the environment. However, it is important to maintain a balance between their environment and ours. That's because birds are known to carry more than 60 diseases and their droppings can damage building materials, including steel. Additionally, birds can impact the aesthetics of a property and can lead to extra maintenance costs.

Like other pests, birds are in constant search for areas where food, water and shelter are available. They can adapt to most structures and, once at your facility, can be difficult to remove — in part because perch points and nesting spots are typically on the exterior of buildings and easily accessible.

The other reason it can be difficult to manage a bird problem is because some pest species are protected by federal, provincial or local regulations. That’s why an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is crucial when dealing with these winged pests. This proactive approach focuses on facility maintenance, exclusion and sanitation measures to keep birds off of your property and in nature, where they belong.

Sanitation should be the first phase of control in any bird management program, as it helps remove the primary reason(s) many birds will be at your site — food.

Birds don’t need much food for sustenance. Sparrows, for example, can easily live off small granular crumbs of waste. Have good sanitation practice in place and make sure your schedule includes regular cleaning of any exterior areas with potential food sources such as spills, garbage, fruit trees and seeding flower beds. Discourage bird feeding and bird baths which...
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many birds will make nests under HVAC units, where they receive shelter from the
often actively attract birds to the facility. Monitor for bird activities accordingly and
keep thorough documentation. Data obtained from up-to-date and accurate docu-
mentation can be analyzed to determine trends, and establish preventative and cor-
rective plans of action to preemptively address future bird issues.

It is nearly impossible to predict exactly when birds will flock to your facility, so
proactive steps are always recommended. Bird-proofing by exclusion is the most
appropriate and environmentally-friendly approach to managing pest birds.

There are several exclusion techniques that can help prevent birds from accessing
desired areas. Some common techniques include physical barriers such as poly net-
ting, bird spikes or bird wire systems. The goal is to keep birds out of areas where they don’t belong.

Many birds will make nests under HVAC units, where they receive shelter from the
elements. In this case, netting can be used to block off the entire area around the HVAC
unit. Depending on the structure and the severity of the infestation, an even larger area
may need to be netted off.

Another exclusion method is to seal all openings in exterior walls with appropri-
ate materials to deter birds like starlings, which can squeeze through an opening as small as two-and-a-half-centimetres in di-
cimeter. Other areas to keep in mind when

protecting against birds are silos, guard rails, rooftop parapets, signage, shipping and
receiving dock doors/bays, false ceilings and other architectural details.

Repellants are another way to make your property unattractive to birds. Au-
dible, visual and non-toxic chemical ap-
lications are forms of repellants used in the industry today. They are meant to
scare away and deter birds. Keep in mind that if bird pressure is significant, birds
may adapt to repellants over time. Repellants work best when used in con-
junction with other forms of control. A regular pest management service pro-
gram will identify specific problems and
implement the appropriate measures for
the specific species of birds affecting your facility.

In some instances, relocation is neces-
sary to remove birds from properties. Li-
censed professionals can review the situa-
tion, and remove the birds in a humane and ethical manner, abiding by all rules and
regulations.

If your facility has a bird problem, contact a licensed pest management profes-
sional immediately. They will assess the problem and review specific criteria – in-
cluding the length of time the birds have been present on site, the specific species,
the presence of nests, the availability of food sources, perching and nesting areas, the ex-
istence of natural predators in the area and the types of controls used in the past – to
take the best course of action. Proactive steps and a strong partnership with your pest
management provider can help alleviate avian pressures and keep these pests in their place – away from your facility.

ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America
Packing More Punch

The International Window Clean-
ers Association (IWCA) will also offer a
training workshop during the con-
vention.

These events join the returning
IEHIA Annual Convention, BSCAI
Annual Convention, and the Associa-
tion of Residential Cleaning Services
International (ARCSI) Annual Con-
vention. Multiple distributor market-
ing groups will also return to host
member events during the week.

Another new feature visitors
should take note of when scheduling
their time at the show is the
ISSA/INTERCLEAN Bistro. At the
Bistro, which requires reservations,
show participants can elect for high
quality meals right on the show floor.
Reservations can be made at
www.issa.com/bistro.

The ISSA Meeting Hub offers
attendees a secure, private area to con-
duct peer, customer or staff meetings.
To reserve a meeting space, visit
www.issa.com/meetinghub.

Another great networking oppor-
tunity will be the ISSA LinkedIn Recep-
tion, which will be hosted right on the
show floor on Thursday – 4 to 5 p.m. –
at the ISSA Resource Center. If you are
a member of this online networking
group, visit the Membership Desk in
the Resource Center to pick up your
ribbon and drink coupon prior to the
reception. If you are not a member, join
nearly 18,000 of your peers and cus-
tomers online by going to
www.linkedin.com, searching for the
“ISSA-The Worldwide Cleaning Industry
Association” group, and clicking “Join.”
Then meet up with the group mem-
ers in person to strengthen your con-
nections.

To learn more about ISSA/
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ter now at www.issa.com/register.

Alice Sinia, Ph.D. is Resident Entomolo-
gist – Regulatory/Lab Services for Orkin
Canada focusing on government regula-
tions pertaining to the pest control in-
dustry. With more than 10 years of ex-
perience, she manages the Quality As-
surance Laboratory for Orkin Canada
and performs analytical entomology as
well as provides technical support in pest/
insect identification to branch offices and
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Sinia at asinia@orkincanada.com or visit
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Quality is something that runs in our family.
In May 2013, the Canada Green Building Council proudly announced that Canada had reached a milestone of 1000 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) – certified projects. The certified buildings range from single-family homes, apartments and condos to office towers, and from schools and arenas to retail outlets and industrial complexes.

In fact, Canada now has the second-largest number of LEED-certified buildings in the world, just after the United States. According to the council, these LEED-certified buildings have had a significant impact on Canadian energy and water consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and waste diversion. Results cited include the following:

- Energy savings of 1,600,321 MWh, which is enough to power 54,307 homes in Canada for a full year.
- A 312,006 CO2e (carbon dioxide equivalent) metric ton reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which equates to removing 58,980 cars from use for one year.
- Water savings of more than 3.3 billion litres, equal to 1336 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- Recycling more than two million metric tons of construction and demolition waste, which represents 639,642 garbage truck loads.
- Installation of 100,239 sq. metres of green roofs, or an area the size of 66 NHL hockey rinks, to reduce the urban heat island effect and mitigate storm water flows in urban areas.

"Canada is now considered one of the global leaders in green building with some of the most innovative and advanced buildings in the world."

Thomas Mueller, Canada Green Building Council

“Canada is now considered one of the global leaders in green building with some of the most innovative and advanced buildings in the world,” said Thomas Mueller, president and CEO of the Canada Green Building Council. “But, we cannot become complacent in the wake of the progress we have made. We need to strive..."
to design buildings that are not only sustainable but regenerative, and make more inroads in the retrofit and operations of existing buildings to counteract the steady decline of ecosystem health worldwide.”

Canada’s achievements are indeed honourable and it is clear there is considerable excitement in this announcement. However, just as Mueller said that Canadian facility owners and managers “cannot become complacent,” neither is the U.S. Green Building Council, which administers the LEED program, resting on its laurels. In fact, starting in 2014, the latest version of LEED, commonly known as v4, has come online. This latest version has a number of changes, including some that will involve cleaning and the professional cleaning industry specifically.

LEED IN HISTORY

Before examining v4 and some of the changes in this latest version of LEED, we should review a bit of the history of LEED to get a clearer idea of its goals and objectives. More than 20 years ago, Rick Fedrizzi, David Gottfried and Mike Italiano established what is now known as the U.S. Green Building Council with a mission to promote sustainability in the building and construction industry.

With representatives from approximately 60 firms and non-profit organizations, the group met at the American Institute of Architects for the council’s founding meeting. It was at this meeting that they discussed their ideas for designing, operating and maintaining facilities in a Greener, more sustainable manner. While their comments received positive feedback, a considerable amount of work was needed before LEED was officially launched in March 2000. Today, there are 76 LEED chapters around the world, more than 13,000 member companies, and 181,000 LEED-certified professionals worldwide.

As the organization has grown, its impact on the professional building and cleaning industries has been significant. Today,
Continued From Page 19

there are four levels of LEED certification:
(1) Certified, which requires 40 to 49 points.
(2) Silver – 50 to 59 points.
(3) Golf – 60 to 79 points.
(4) Platinum – 80+ points.

Further, some facilities that have decided not to seek LEED certification still want to reach some or all of the goals involved in LEED certification. To accomplish this, they typically use the program as a road map of what they need to do to build and operate their properties in a greener and more sustainable manner.

WHAT CLEANING PROFESSIONALS NEED TO KNOW

Several years ago, a facility earned points if it had a green cleaning program in effect. One of the big changes that has evolved in recent years, and is part of v4, is that green cleaning is now a prerequisite in order for a facility to be considered for LEED certification.

This means that building service contractors (BSCs) who are cleaning and maintaining facilities that are already LEED certified or that wish to be LEED certified will have to be familiar with green cleaning, and be able to implement an effective green cleaning strategy for that facility. Fortunately, this has been made easier as a result of the Cleaning Industry Management Standard – Green Buildings (CIMS-GB) program, operated by ISSA, and Green Seal’s GS-42 program. Astute BSCs who complete one of these programs and become certified can increase their marketing potential significantly in years to come.

Other items to be aware of include the following:

There have been advances in technologies that turn ordinary tap water into an effective cleaning agent; v4 recognizes this and encourages cleaning professionals to consider using these new tools and equipment.

Disinfectants and sanitizers are to be used more carefully and on an as-needed/where-needed basis. While disinfectants and sanitizers have served us well, their overuse can have serious negative ramifications for the user and the environment. Further, while more research is necessary, some researchers believe that some bacteria are becoming immune to certain disinfectants and sanitizers. This would mean that these products would need to be used in stronger and stronger amounts to kill surface bacteria.

Using natural resources more efficiently and wisely is also a key part of v4. Specifically, this applies to energy and water. To address this, cleaning professionals are encouraged to use more energy-efficient equipment as well as chemicals designed specifically to clean in cold water. There are now many such chemicals, and more are expected in coming years.

With v4, cleaning professionals can select chemicals and products that have been Green certified by more certification organizations. The list now includes the Environmental Protection Agency’s Design for the Environment Program, Green Seal, and UL/Environment, formerly EcoLogo. In addition, v4 accepts paper products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) as well as those derived from rapidly renewable resources or tree-free fibres.

Finally, vacuum cleaners and carpet extractors must have earned the Seal of Approval from the Carpet and Rug Institute, and automatic scrubbers must have onboard chemical metres or use tap water for cleaning.

WHAT THIS ALL MEANS

When I was going to college many years ago, some students made ends meet by getting jobs cleaning buildings on the college campus. While some training was involved, many people had the pre-conceived notion that anyone could clean and it would be an easy job.

Well, those were the old days. In the past 25 years, cleaning has finally become a true profession. And, as with any profession, it requires learning proper skills. Green cleaning and LEED have had a significant role in professionalizing the cleaning industry. Today, to say “anyone can clean” is almost the same as saying anyone can teach a class, be an attorney or be successful in any other profession. LEED v4 is likely to elevate our industry even further.
Environmental services and housekeeping staff are the professionals teamed with infection control specialists that oversee our daily health. This fact is reflected extensively in the long-term care industry.

Each day we share contamination from the air we breathe, the surfaces we touch and the food we eat. However, it doesn’t matter whether we are at home, at work or enjoying activities with friends. In any location, it is these clean teams everywhere that oversee and address situations for our protection.

In long-term care facilities, the fragile people we have in our charge require us to show due diligence and complete the tasks developed for their well-being.

All the steps taken by the professionals to address the clean-
ing and disinfection of surfaces for the protection of clients and staff is called infection control.

The goal of all infection control practices should be to stop or at least limit the spread of bacteria, micro-organisms and fungi.

Environmental surfaces, in some cases, can support bacteria, fungi and small viruses. The transfer from environmental surfaces to humans mainly occurs from hands touching these surfaces. When the environmental surfaces become soiled and contaminated, they must be cleaned of visible soil before they can be disinfected.

Disinfection is completed using a chemical or other approved product that has been developed to destroy microorganisms or render them inactive.

It is suggested that most housekeeping surfaces be cleaned with soap and water, or a detergent product effective at removing the soil. When this process has been completed, the disinfection step, utilizing the products available to us, is relatively simple in today’s health care environment.

There are three levels of disinfectants that work for the destruction of multiple organisms. These include the following:

- High-Level disinfection;
- Intermediate-Level disinfection; and,
- Low-Level disinfection.

With the establishment of these three levels of disinfection, it follows that there are specific areas that require these procedures to be applied to.

The health care industry has concluded that the “types of clean” should be divided into two groups: the Hospital Clean and the Hotel Clean.

Hospital Clean is a measure of cleanliness routinely maintained in care areas in a health care setting. Hospital Clean is similar to Hotel Clean, with the addition of disinfection, increased cleaning frequency, auditing and other infection control measures in client/patient/resident care areas.

Hotel Clean is a measure of cleanliness based on visual appearance that includes dust and dirt removal, waste disposal, and cleaning of windows and surfaces. Hotel Clean is the basic cleaning that takes place in all areas of a health care setting.

I am of the opinion that there should be third type of cleaning – CARE OCCU-

PANCY CLEAN. These are the environments that do not require the in-depth cleaning of a hospital, but need more disinfection procedures than the clean environment presented in a hotel.

The procedures followed in all of these environments use different products and methods to achieve the goal, and are critical in the specific environment requiring disinfec-

Going forward, environmental staff needs to understand why disinfection is important and what the role of “first clean, then disinfect” plays in the industry. The focus should remain on protecting our clients/patients, residents, staff and visitors.

The staff needs correct and current information to enable them to effectively complete their tasks in the different environmental areas, as well as the various surfaces being addressed. These surfaces are divided into groups, and the frequency or cleaning/disinfection of these groups may utilize different products and procedures.

High-touch surfaces are those that have frequent contact with hands. Examples include doorknobs, elevator buttons, telephones, call bells, bed-rails, light switches, computer keyboards, monitoring equipment, hemodialysis machines, wall areas around the toilet and the edges of privacy curtains.

High-touch surfaces in care areas require more frequent cleaning and disinfection than minimal contact surfaces. Cleaning and disinfection is usually done at least daily, and more frequently if the risk of environmental contamination is higher (e.g. intensive care units).

Low-touch surfaces are those that have minimal contact with hands. Examples include floors, walls, ceilings, mirrors and window sills.

Low-touch surfaces require cleaning on a regular (but not necessarily daily) basis, when soiling or spills occur, and when a client/patient/resident is discharged from the health care setting. Many low-touch surfaces may be cleaned on a periodic basis rather than a daily basis, if they are also cleaned when visibly soiled.

Environmental surfaces, bedside tables, bed rails, chairs, pull cords, telephones, etc., are all capable of supporting infectious agents. These areas must be cleaned and disinfected utilizing a procedure that will depend on the surface type and the amount of soil present.

The exception is the floor surface. The disinfection of floors, in most cases, is irrelevant. These areas only require cleaning under normal conditions. In many living areas a regular neutral cleaner is sufficient to keep the integrity of the floor for the client.

There are exceptions, of course. Floors in hospital operating rooms (ORs) and other sterilized areas require extra disinfection procedures to be implemented.

The health care environment, today, has a concern with a number of hospital acquired infections (HAIs). This concern does require some special attention. Although floor surfaces in health care facilities do require regular cleaning, the procedure of disinfection is not a requirement.

Studies have concluded that disinfec-
Simply, preferred

Tork® MB578 Premium Hand Towel preferred* over Kleenex® 13253 in

Performance

Overall Preference

Hand Feel

Appearance

Feel for yourself. Start a free trial at talktork.com/feelfree

*In a third-party conducted blind comparison test with Class A building employees, Tork MB578 preferred vs. Kleenex 13253.
Showcase

**AMERICO INTRODUCES FULL CYCLE™ FLOOR PAD LINE**

Americo Manufacturing Company has announced the reformulation of its floor pads to include enhanced biodegradation in the new Full Cycle™ floor pad line.

The company has been making floor pads from 100 per cent recycled fibre and water-based resins in its binding process for well over a decade. With a long history of embracing “green” manufacturing, the company is now completing the cycle by introducing an innovative technology in developing floor pads that have been specially-formulated to biodegrade in a fraction of the time, compared to conventional floor pads.

“This innovation does not modify our core pad formulation,” said Tom Owens, director of Technical Services for Americo Manufacturing Company. “Our Full Cycle pads will only begin to biodegrade after being placed in an anaerobic (without oxygen) environment and in the presence of certain types of microorganisms that exist primarily in active landfills.”

The company reported that independent laboratory testing of ASTM D5511 showed up to 78 per cent biodegradation of the Full Cycle floor pads within one year, as compared to less than four per cent on Americo’s conventional pads. (Laboratory tests represent optimized conditions, often showing faster results than might be found in actual landfill environments. The actual rate of biodegradation of Americo’s Full Cycle™ pads, as well as the rate of all plastic materials in landfills, will be slower and will vary, depending upon actual landfill conditions.)

**NACECARE SOLUTIONS INTRODUCES NEW LINE OF UPRIGHT VACUUMS**

The HD 14 and HD 18 are 14- and 18-inch dual motor vacuums built to “withstand the commercial market.”

Both vacuums feature four position brush height adjustment, bag full indicator light and an automatic shut-down if the bag is not installed. The brush drive motor is also protected by an electronic shut-off.

At 16- and 17-pounds, the vacuums have low handle weight and are said to be easy-to-use. Both units are CRI approved and meet LEED-EB requirements.

**Americo Manufacturing Company**

For more information, contact NaceCare at (905) 795-0122 or visit the company’s web site at www.nacecare.com.

**NEW TT516 COMPACT ELECTRIC SCRUBBER**

The new TT 516 is said to be the professional choice in compact auto-scrubbers as it is able to get into tight areas that other auto-scrubbers cannot.

The autoscrubber is said to be a complete replacement for a standard mop and bucket system.

The TT516 features a 300 watt vacuum motor coupled with a 180-degree pivoting squeegee for excellent water recovery. The 65-foot power cord provides users with the reach that is needed and the controls are easy to use. The best feature is that it fits on the trunk of a car.

For more information, contact NaceCare at (905) 795-0122 or visit the company’s web site at www.nacecare.com.
FIVE WAYS COLD PLASMA CLEAN™ TECHNOLOGY COULD CHANGE HAND DRYING PROCEDURES

Last year, American Dryer incorporated Cold Plasma Clean™ (CPC) technology into its cutting-edge eXtremeAir® dryers. By incorporating the natural properties of cold plasma, the 21st century hand dryer is said to offer unique benefits and change industry expectations for what hand dryers can do.

CPC technology is said to kill germs as it dries hands naturally, without chemicals. Cold plasma, or bipolar ionization, is nature’s way of cleaning the air and killing germs. The Cold Plasma Generator, available only inside American Dryer eXtremeAir® CPC models, uses steady-state positive and negative discharge points to split water molecules in the air into oppositely charged hydrogen and oxygen ions. For example, ammonia that causes typical body odor breaks down to oxygen, nitrogen and water vapor. Air contains millions of molecules, including harmful gases, fibres, mold, bacteria and viruses. CPC technology breaks down those harmful molecules into simple, safe, naturally-occurring molecules.

By incorporating warm-air CPC, American Dryer’s latest models are said to actually kill germs as they dry hands without the creation of harmful ozone. CPC technology is also proven to kill harmful and microscopic pathogens including E. Coli, C. Diff, Staph, MRSA and TB, as well as encapsulating dust, smoke and pollen particles.

Independent studies conducted by an Elite CDC certified lab (EMSL Labs) determined the efficacy of the eXtremeAir CPC by placing a pathogen-laden petri dish under the hand dryer nozzle. Tests were conducted in triplicate to determine the percentage of reduction. After hand drying, there were no detectible E.coli from the control sample. Statistically, over 99.6 per cent of E.coli were killed. Staphylococcus aureus was used to test the efficacy against Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, (MRSA). Interestingly, EMSL considers MRSA too dangerous to handle with this type of testing. Therefore, the EMSL team tested for MRSA solely with the cold plasma generator and found that it was killed. Cold plasma technology has also been tested and proven to be effective against other pathogens including Clostridium difficile (C.diff), and Tuberculosis (TB).

With CPC technology, users can save up to 98 per cent of paper towel costs and use just 2.5 watts of power to eliminate harmful germs. It’s also said to be a solid-state, maintenance-free solution without expensive filters, chemicals or labor. With the cost- and environmentally-conscious eXtremeAir CPC, restrooms can do away with empty paper towel holders, overflowing trash bins and towel-clogged toilets, too.

The hand dryer has a compact design, and comes equipped with universal voltage and adjustable sound and speed, so there is no need for upgrades or add-ons.

NEW TTB3226 RIDE-ON SCRUBBER INTRODUCED

The TTB3226 26-inch ride-on scrubber is based on NaceCare’s extremely popular TVT678 model. The unit features four, 100ah gel batteries which provide over three-and-one-half-hours of runtime from a single charge.

A large 32-gallon tanks mean less refilling and greater productivity, and the simplified control panel allows for easier use. The water flow and brush pressure are adjustable with the push of a button, and the patented pop on/off brush system makes for easy brush changes.

A 600 watt traction motor drives at speeds of up to 4.3 mph, and the 70-inch turning radius allows for tight turns in narrow aisles.

For more information, contact NaceCare at (905) 795-0122 or visit the company’s web site at www.nacecare.com.

DREUMEX INTRODUCES HAND CARE INNOVATIONS

Dreumex unveiled its innovative Omnicare™ system at this year’s NJSSA Supply Line Expo held earlier this year in Atlantic City, NJ.

The system is said to offer a solution to all the hand care needs of the washroom segment: protection, cleansing, sanitizing and conditioning. All of these needs are said to be met with one complete system which requires only one dispenser to operate any of the six products offered.

According to the manufacturer, Omnicare offers the lowest cost per hand wash on the market – dispensing up to 2000 hand washes per canister at 0.2- to 1.5-ML per dose.

A touch-free sensor delivers a precise amount of product each time and only a small amount is needed because the products are said to be six times more concentrated than traditional cleaners.

One of the many benefits of the system is the minimal maintenance required for the dispenser. The cartridges take seconds to replace and are said to last up to 2000 handwashes. The life of the cartridge will decrease the amount of time professionals spend maintaining bathrooms and other facilities where the dispenser is present.

Cartridges are fully recyclable and each empties completely leaving no waste. The touch-free dispenser utilizes a light sensor, which minimizes the energy consumption of the system.

For more information, contact Dreumex at www.dreumexomnicare.com.

CINTAS INTRODUCES HARMONIZE SCENT LINE

Cintas restroom fragrance products are now available in matching scents to create a harmonized odor control solution in restrooms. Created to attack odor in the air and at the source, the new Harmonize Scent line is available in all Cintas restroom fragrance products, including air fresheners, urinal and toilet sanitizers and urinal screens. Made with essential oils to deliver the highest quality fragrances for consistent performance, the scent line
Kärcher has won the Innovation Award at ISSA/INTERCLEAN® Amsterdam 2014, for its Mopvac B 60/10 C. Out of a total of 66 entries, the international jury chose the unique machine, which is the first of an entirely new product category created by Kärcher, as the overall winner. The committee highlighted the Mopvac’s simple and cost-efficient system operation.

The B 60/10 C is designed to fill the gap between a mop and bucket and a scrubber drier. The convenience of manual cleaning machines is raised to a hygienic, safe and ergonomic level. The new Mopvac looks and works like a compact scrubber drier – without the need for a power source. Easy to use, the machine only needs to be pushed forward, whereby cleaning solution from the fresh water tank is applied to the mop with a cleaning pad. An internal mechanical pump driven by an additional wheel under the machine sucks up the dirty water in a single pass. The dirty water is picked up by suction lips on the mop and collected in a separate container. The machine is said to be more hygienic than a mop as it only uses clean water. An additional benefit is that floors are immediately dry after cleaning – reducing the risk of slipping.

JAN-PRO NAMES PROTEAM® VENDOR OF THE YEAR

ProTeam®, creators of the original and Next Generation backpack vacuums, was named Vendor of the Year by JAN-PRO®, a worldwide commercial cleaning franchise.

“Our partnership with ProTeam during the past 15 years has contributed, in part, to JAN-PRO becoming number one as a franchising organization for eight years running,” said Dennis Thompson, JAN-PRO Chief Operating Officer. “JAN-PRO is proud to have an excellent partner like ProTeam and honored to recognize them as our Vendor of the Year for 2013 / 2014.”

This award recognizes ProTeam for advancements in technology, including cleaning with greater efficiency and ProTeam’s state-of-the-art Four Level® Filtration w/HEPA for improved Indoor Air Quality.

“This is the highest honor of recognition from any customer and one that everyone at ProTeam shares,” said ProTeam National Account Manager Lisa Winter. “Each person and representative of ProTeam has helped to set us apart. I am so proud to work with a team of such dedicated and professional individuals.”

JAN-PRO comprises 11,000 franchisees that serve nearly 35,000 customers across 13 countries. Regularly ranked as a top performing franchise in such publications as Franchise World and Entrepreneur Magazine, JAN-PRO is known for its quality commitment and processes - the JAN-PRO Signature Clean®.

NEW DIRECTOR OF SALES FOR AFFLINK’S INDUSTRIAL DIVISION

After an extensive search, AFFLINK, a sales and marketing organization for the facility management, healthcare, education, industrial, packaging and related industries, has announced the appointment of Paul Vrzal as director of sales–industrial.

According to Paul G. Tuckley, AFFLINK’s vice president of sales, Vrzal will lead the company’s current team of business development managers for the organizations in this industry segment “and drive member sales to new industrial strategic accounts.”

Vrzal has over 15 years of experience selling supply chain solutions and industrial / MRO* / packaging products to such major strategic accounts as Anheuser-Busch, Cargill and ConAgra.

Over the years, much of his sales activity focus has also been on pioneering and developing profitable new business opportunities with end users in the manufacturing and food-processing segments, which is highly relevant to his new role at AFFLINK.

In addition, Vrzal has had various sales management assignments with industry leaders such as Betco, Grainger Industrial Supply and Gojo Industries.

“(Vrzal)’s hiring demonstrates AFFLINK’s continuing investment in quality individuals to support member growth,” Tuckley said. “We welcome him to our team.”

*MRO refers to maintenance, repair, and overhaul.
ANTIMICROBIAL TEST LABS PROVIDES TIPS TO PREVENT NOROVIRUS ON CRUISE SHIPS

Antimicrobial Test Laboratories (ATL) — a contract microbiology lab founded in 2006 by microbiologist Dr. Benjamin Tanner — has provided the following information as a public service to prevent Norovirus on cruise ships.

Norovirus (formerly called Norwalk virus) was first isolated in 1972 in Norwalk, Ohio. It is a relatively small virus that causes nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, and it is highly contagious. Scientists estimate that as few as 10 viruses are enough to cause illness. Symptoms usually last from one- to three-days. Fortunately, death from Norovirus infection is rare. Noroviruses are relatively stable in the environment, meaning they can remain viable and infective on environmental surfaces for long periods of time.

1. Cleaning and sanitizing ship and hand surfaces is critical to control Norovirus outbreaks because studies show it is spread by close person-to-person contact, as well as contaminated objects in the environment. Since Norovirus is resistant to many ordinary disinfectants including most quaternary ammonium-based products, ship surfaces should be decontaminated with disinfectants specifically labeled for use against Norovirus. Since contaminated hands are often involved in Norovirus transmission, hand hygiene is also crucial. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are minimally effective against Norovirus. Hand washing with soap and water is most effective.

2. The federal Vessel Sanitation Program (VSP) is a program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) un-

NISSCO RECOGNIZES BANNER SYSTEMS AS DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

The National Independent Sanitary Supplies Companies (NISSCO) LLC has recognized Banner Systems as its Distributor of the Year.

This is the second time Banner Systems has been recognized as NISSCO’s Distributor of the Year.

“In 2000 when Banner Systems first won the award they were your standard old school distribution house,” said Mark Bozich, president of NISSCO. “Orders were written manually in the field or called in to the office, and every order was key stroked in by customer service or the actual sales person, which took them out of the field.”

Today, Banner is one of the most high-tech companies in the business. The company has re-invented itself to only remain relevant, but to remain on a continuous growth path.

Banner utilizes each aspect of new age marketing. From partnering with AXIS GMO (www.axisgmo.com) to handle its entire Social Media and SEO platform, to implementing DDI Systems (www.ddisys.com) a complete solution software package. The company has also implemented a number of electronic marketing items to further expand its footprint.

“What I like best about Banner is that the owner – John Channell – wraps the complete package in a traditional sales model,” Bozich said. “They go out and make calls, demonstrate product, act proactively with solutions for their customers and have a passion for this business.”

According to Bozich, Channell is not oblivious of the new big box retailers and internet companies.

“(Channell) glean what he can from their success stories and implements change into his local distribution house to mirror what makes them successful,” he said. “Working under the theory that businesses shop globally and buy locally (Channell) continually seeks innovations that keep Banner Systems at the forefront of marketing, sales and service.”

NISSCO, LLC was established in 1985 with a mission to consistently provide its distributor members and supplier partners with new, profitable business and revenue enhancing programs. NISSCO is a premier purchasing and marketing group in the jan-san industry, dedicated to the independent distributor.

ICONIC CANADIAN COMPANY TAKES FIRST STEP IN NEW DIRECTION

For more than 75 years, CenturyVallen has enhanced its customers’ productivity, safety and compliance. The company is now ready to take the next step in its evolution and enhance its brand to reflect its commitment to excellence in customer service. Moving forward, CenturyVallen will now be known as Vallen.

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AMERICO NAMED ISS PREFERRED GLOBAL PAD SUPPLIER

Americo, one of the world’s largest floor pad manufacturers, is pleased to announce a new strategic partnership with ISS, a universal outsourcing provider of facility management services. Americo has been named the preferred global supplier of floor pads to all ISS locations worldwide. The agreement includes delivery of floor pads and floor care accessories to many of the over 50 ISS global locations.

Americo will provide floor pads and related cleaning products to ISS facilities in North America through strategic distribution channels. In Europe and other select parts of the world, Americo and ISS have partnered with Sealed Air – Diversey Care division, the ISS global partner for cleaning and hygiene solutions, to deliver Americo’s floor pads to the marketplace under the newly launched TASKI-Americo® brand.

“We are excited to have been selected as a preferred supplier by ISS,” said Chief Executive Officer of Americo Manufacturing Company, Lenny Shutzberg. “This alliance further supports Americo as a global leader and undoubtedly exhibits the strength of the value proposition and expertise we bring to the market place. We look forward to working in partnership with ISS and their preferred distribution networks globally, to provide the industry with an inclusive offering.”

Americo is known for its unique green position, producing consistently high quality products along with environmentally-friendly manufacturing processes.

Joe Mann, Group Category manager, Cleaning for ISS Group Procurement said that “when ISS initiated the supplier vetting process, it was crucial to find an or-

PROTEAM APPOINTS NEW CANADIAN COUNTRY MANAGER

ProTeam®, the company that created the original and Next Generation backpack vacuums, is pleased to announce the appointment of Marvin Mauer as the new Canadian country manager.

“Marvin brings a wealth of industry and management experience to this position,” said Vice President of Sales Rich Steinberg, to whom Mauer will report. “I look forward to seeing him thrive as he builds our presence in the Canadian market.”

Previously with Deb Canada, Mauer’s sound judgment, vision and adaptability helped him rise through the ranks from account executive in 1991 to general manager by 2008. Mauer also has five years of experience in jan/san distribution - work that gave him keen insight into the needs of Canadian cleaning professionals.

Mauer demonstrates an aptitude for long-term strategic planning and an understanding of customer service, finance, plant operations, sales and marketing. His strong leadership and can-do attitude help bring the best out of his staff. Mauer has represented the cleaning and maintenance industry as former chair of the Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Sanitary Supply Association (CSSA). He is also a graduate of Humber College’s Marketing program and holds the professional designation of Certified Sales Professional (CSP) from the Canadian Professional Sales Association.
The New “Slide & Lock” Velcro Flat Mopping system slides on the upper “track” of the aluminum frame and can be positioned centrally or laterally. Afterwards, simply bring back the “Slide & Lock” to the desired position.

**Maximum hygiene and cleanliness:** One of the rail frame features concerns the interchangeable Velcro strips located on the back of the frame allowing removal of a practical mop ensuring maximum hygiene.

**Available in:**
- 16” / 40 cm
- 18” / 45 cm
- 24” / 60 cm
- 40” / 100 cm

Flat surfaces cleaning
- Middle position
- Lateral position to reach the most difficult
- Flat surface Vertical cleaning with the option to lock the joint at 180°

Simply step on one side of the mop replacement and pull the handle upwards to remove the mop without touching.
Man said. Working collaboratively with make Americo an ideal partner for ISS,”

ket depth and unique eco-friendly position

ven materials in our industry, and its mar-

logically-advanced producers of non-wo-

our own core values.”

and a vision that was complementary to

ganization with a strong global presence

AMERICO NAMED ISS PREFERRED GLOBAL PAD SUPPLIER

tion of floors has no benefit associated with the impact on health care associated infections. The studies revealed that a neutral cleaner is adequate, accept in some ex-

treme winter conditions when the salt is tracked in onto hard floor surfaces.

In some cases, the issue is that the pro-

cedure is being completed, however it is

not being completed correctly and/or rou-

tinely. Cleaning practices must be reviewed

as often as required to keep abreast of

changes in the health care environment.

If a staff member forgets to clean a sur-

face with visible soil and simply applies the

disinfector, they may assume the procedure

has been completed correctly. However, this

practice may cause an adverse effect.

Managers are not able to be on-site all
tinely consistent basis for the well-being

of all concerned – Just common sense!

managers really need to determine the appropriate products and steps to follow for their own environment. Establish a policy and cleaning procedures and, most importantly, follow them.

Every surface may look clean at times, but it does not mean the surface is clean or that it is not contaminated with bacteria and viruses. All environmental surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected on a rou-
tinely consistent basis for the well-being of all concerned – Just common sense!

It is extremely important that cleaning professionals know and understand the purpose of completing various tasks, as well as the reasons for the process. These frontline staff require adequate training which allows them to obtain knowledge and understand the common sense reasons behind all cleaning procedures. The understanding of what disinfection actually does and why it is done, makes the procedure easier to receive staff buy-in and compliance.

Housekeeping professionals really need to determine the appropriate products and steps to follow for their own environment. Establish a policy and cleaning procedures and, most importantly, follow them.

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Continued From Page 22

Cleaning & Disinfecting Common Sense

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Continued From Page 28

ERICO NAMED ISS PREFERRED GLOBAL PAD SUPPLIER

organization with a strong global presence and a vision that was complementary to our own core values.”

“Americo is one of the most technolo-

logically-advanced producers of non-wo-

ven materials in our industry, and its mar-

ket depth and unique eco-friendly position

make Americo an ideal partner for ISS,”

Mann said. Working collaboratively with Americo and Diversey Care, ISS will now be able to supply a comprehensive system to our customers with one of the most optimal cleaning solutions available in the industry.”

According to Olivier Braun, Building Care Portfolio director at Diversey Care, “The integration of the TASKI Americo® floor pad line into our solutions is one more step into the extension of our leaders-

ship in floor care.”

“It enables us to strengthen the value we deliver to ISS, and all our customers in optimizing operational efficiency and reducing total costs of cleaning, while uncompromising on sustainability,” he said.

Continued From Page 25

CINTAS INTRODUCES HARMONIZE SCENT LINE

comes in four matching scents: Mango

Paradise, Citrus Slice, Clean Breeze and

Cinnamon Spice.

On a weekly basis, a Cintas service

professional will monitor dispensers, in-

ventory levels, replace batteries as needed and ensure that all dispensers and products are functioning properly so restrooms always smell fresh.

For more information, contact Cintas at http://www.cintas-corp.com/ FacililtyServices .
A visible clean, powered by Clorox® Bleach.

Clorox® Bleach Cream Cleanser with a 1.3% sodium hypochlorite solution and scrubbing beads.
TTV 678
HANDLE ANY JOB
LARGE OR SMALL -
WITH ONE MACHINE

Key Features
- Three sizes, one machine
- Fully adjustable flow rate from 0.25 gpm to 1 gpm
- Patented pop-on/pop-off brushes and pad drivers
- LED control panel provides operator with chemical, water flow, brush pressure and battery status
- Adjustable brush pressure and speed
- Six maintenance-free gel batteries provide 4+ hours of run time
- Tear-away squeegee equipped with quick-release squeegee blades
- Two squeegee sizes come with each machine
- Onboard chemical dispensing system guarantees proper chemical usage
- The gel batteries are completely maintenance free and spill-proof

For more information visit our website or contact NaceCare for a free demo.
1.800.387.3210 Toll-Free / nacecare.com