

Continuous cleaning and sanitizing or disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces can minimize the spread of bacteria and viruses. Architex has an extensive line of textiles which have been rigorously tested within the [Eight Families of Disinfectant Cleaners](#).

CLEANING VS. SANITIZING VS. DISINFECTING

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from **all** surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on **porous** surfaces (woven textiles) to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process works by either cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection. Sanitizing removes 99.99 -99.999% of microorganisms, but it isn't inactivating as disinfecting may be.

Disinfecting kills germs by using chemicals to do so on **non-porous** surfaces (non-woven textiles). This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

CLEANING, SANITIZING AND DISINFECTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Cleaning is required prior to sanitizing or disinfecting any surface, including textiles.

You must always clean prior to sanitizing or disinfecting. A surface that has not been cleaned effectively cannot be properly sanitized or disinfected.

Step 1: Clean

Step 2: Sanitize (*porous surfaces - woven textiles*) **OR** **Step 2:** Disinfect (*non-porous surfaces - non-woven textiles*)

ANTIMICROBIAL ADDITIVES

Antimicrobials are not proven to reduce the number of HAIs (hospital acquired infections) nor are they proven to kill any viruses. They are only proven to protect the fabric (and not a person) against bacteria, fungus, mildew and mold. Ongoing cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting accomplished **on site** (and not antimicrobial additives) prevent and/or control HAIs (Hospital Acquired Infections). Architex offers a range of products that include and do not include antimicrobial additives.

HELPFUL LINKS

[CDC Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#)

[CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities](#)

[EPA Recommended Cleaners for COVID-19](#)