

Why they like Shield™ infection-control fabrics

Two healthcare pros share their experience

As we reported recently, InPro's Clickeze division has seen a significant jump in the number of healthcare facilities that are purchasing Shield- by Panaz infection-control fabric. So, we asked two of the largest purchasers of Shield fabrics for privacy curtains: **Why did you choose Shield fabrics? and How are they working so far?**

Don Sachs, Environmental Services Manager,

San Ramon Regional Medical Center, San Ramon, Calif. CR\I: Why did you choose Shield fabrics?

Don: Over the last 12 years, we had purchased a lot of privacy curtains, and we had a lot of 'mix 'n match.' Since we were re-doing all the flooring, we wanted to switch the curtains as well to coordinate the decor. I called InPro and their field sales rep was the first to respond. He was prompt and very professional.

We put Shield curtains in 165 rooms in our Medical/ Surgical wing, Recovery and in Definitive Care, which is for post-ICU patients. The fabric appealed to our Infection Control director for its anti-bacterial properties, and I liked that it was anti-staining.

CR\I: How are the curtains working out so far?

Don: Our Infection Control department sets our cleaning protocol, and we're to launder privacy curtains two times per year. I like the Shield fabrics because they launder well and have a short dry cycle. We also keep some extra curtains on hand for swap outs during laundering.

David Kee, Director of Materials Management

Hi-Desert Medical Center, Joshua Tree, Calif.

CR\ol : Why did you choose Shield fabrics?

David: We selected Shield fabrics for the infection control factors and especially ease of care. [Hi-Desert purchased curtains for 175 rooms.]

CRM: How are the curtains working out so far?

David: The Shield curtains are easy to clean with simple wiping and are low maintenance. They are performing very well.

How Shield fabrics work

Unlike disinfectants, treatments or other materials, Shield fabric eliminates microbes on its own. Developed by Panaz in the UK, Shield technology uses positively charged silanebased molecules that modify the fabric it protects. Instead of leeching into the surrounding fabric, the Shield technology remains permanently fixed to the fabric. When the microbe comes into contact with the fabric, the Shield technology destroys the cell.

In addition to its infection-fighting properties, Shield fabrics also offer excellent stain resistance, and allow for simple clean-up using a damp cloth with household detergent. All fabrics retain their infection-fighting properties through repeated thermal washings, conform to the NFPA70I flame-retardant standard and come in 30 patterns and colors.

Shield passes the test

One concern of Infection Control professionals is that fabrics in healthcare settings could be vehicles for transmitting some of the worst types of hospital-acquired infections.

A test of Shield™ by Panaz fabrics showed that the material eliminated 99.8% or more of the most-common microbes classed as the worst sources of hospital-acquired infections, and 95.7% of clostridium difficile.

The Bodycote Materials Testing Laboratories Ltd. tested the Shield fabrics using the ASTM E 2149-01 test method, which measures the antimicrobial activity of agents under dynamic contact conditions. The 2149-01 test agitates the fabric in a flask containing microbes. The fabric is then placed in a petri dish with agar and incubated for 24 to 48 hours. A colony count is conducted to determine the amount of reduction due to the anti-microbial properties of the fabric. Based on this test, Shield fabrics produced the following microbial reductions after 24 hours of incubation:

BACTERIA	REDUC770N 9to
Staph (staphylococcus aureus)	99,9%
Aspergillus niger	99,9%
E. coli 0157	99,9%
VRE	99,8%
MRSA	99,9%
C. dill. (clostridium difficile)	95,7%

For more information on Shield fabrics, contact InPro at 877-780-0034, or visit inprocorp.com. - R M