

Cleaning & disinfecting furniture materials

HOWE
MOVING DESIGN
SINCE 1928

COVID-19 has changed our world at devastating speed

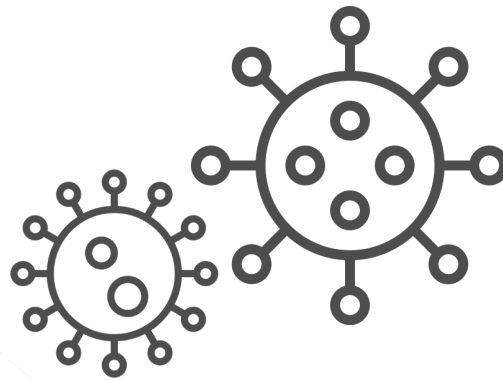
COVID-19 has changed our world at devastating speed, the majority of us left our workplace in March to isolate ourselves and work remotely for an indefinite period of time. Companies need to adapt and secure employees' health and safety as physical distancing and good hygiene are the new norm. With these guidelines on how to care for and clean HOWE furniture materials, we would like to help you provide a hygienic work environment and make people feel safe and confident when being in their workplace.



Virus vs. bacteria

It is important to note the difference between bacteria and virus. Bacteria and viruses are different types of microorganisms. They can occur on different surfaces and materials. Bacteria can grow on a surface and multiply, whereas viruses lack the capacity to thrive and reproduce outside of a host body. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a so-called enveloped virus with a fatty outside layer. This structure is easily destroyed using regular surface disinfectants and detergents.

To prevent a virus and bacteria from spreading, good hygiene, both of the individual and at the workspace, is more important than ever. The World Health Organisation states that the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and others is to keep distance, wash your hands regularly, make sure your surroundings are clean and follow the guidelines of your local government.



Antimicrobial & antibacterial surfaces

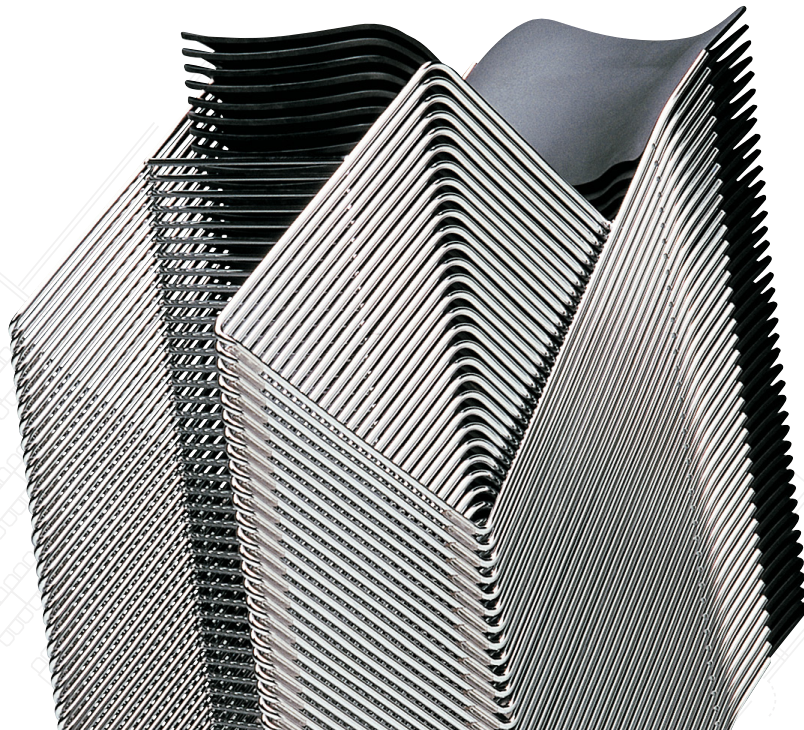
Antimicrobial and antibacterial material features are now high on the agenda and widely requested.

In that regard, it is important to stress that Antimicrobial and Health & Safety do not go hand in hand. Antimicrobial properties are created using silver ions and formaldehyde which are both considered highly toxic substances that eventually emit from the material surfaces to the surroundings.

Prevailing standards within health, safety and environment such as HHI and GlobalGreenTag™ explicitly bans antimicrobials in furniture.

Because, antimicrobials:

- Pose a risk to human health and environment.
- Contribute to antimicrobial resistance
+ promote future superbugs.
- May lead to false sense of security and result in less stringent infection control practices.



Cleaning guidelines for furniture materials

In the following we share specific guidelines for each HOWE furniture material on how to care for and clean it, to help you provide a hygienic work environment and make people feel safe and confident when being in their workplace.



For all products

When disinfecting and cleaning products the agent should be applied to a clean, soft cloth. With very few exceptions, abrasive cleaners and chlorine bleach should never be used as they can cause permanent damage or discoloration of the product.

For custom-ordered non-standard fabrics and finishes, the specific manufacturers' guidelines should be followed. Alternatively, seek assistance from HOWE Customer Service how best to safely clean the custom-ordered product.



Resins

Polyamide and Polypropylene

- Methylated spirit disinfectant can be used without damaging the resin. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.
- Avoid solvents.

Metals

Powder-coating / paint

- Disinfect with a soft cloth moistened with Isopropyl alcohol. Concentration should be between 60-90%. Rinse with clean water.
- A pre-softened automotive paste wax may be used after cleaning to maintain the sheen of the coating.

Chrome plating

- Methylated spirit disinfectant applied to a soft cloth can be used without damaging the chrome surface. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.
- Afterwards, ensure the surface is dried to prevent water spots or rust on the surface.
- Treat the chrome surface with chrome polish to help maintain the surface,

Aluminium

- Methylated spirit disinfectant applied to a soft cloth can be used without damaging the aluminium surface. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.
- Afterwards, ensure the surface is dried to prevent water spots or rust on the surface.
- Treat the aluminium surface with a pre-softened wax paste to help maintain the surface.

Veneers

- Alcohol disinfectant applied to a soft cloth can be used without damaging the lacquered veneer. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.
- Afterwards, ensure the surface is thoroughly dried to prevent staining.
- Avoid solvents.
- Aerosol-powered cleaners and polishes should not be used.



Solid wood

- Alcohol disinfectant applied to a soft cloth can be used without damaging the lacquered solid wood. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.
- Afterwards, ensure the surface is thoroughly dried to prevent staining.
- Avoid solvents.
- Aerosol-powered cleaners and polishes should not be used.

Laminates / Melamines / Linoleum

High pressure & compact laminates / melamines

- Alcohol disinfectant applied to a soft cloth can be used without damaging the laminates or melamines. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.
- Avoid solvents.
- Do not use chlorine bleach.

Laminates and melamines are highly resistant to chemicals and many household cleaners can be safely used, such as Formula 409 or Mr. Clean where available.

Nano-laminates (EU) / Traceless laminates (US)

- Alcohol disinfectant applied to a soft cloth can be used without damaging the laminates or melamines. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.

Linoleums

- Alcohol disinfectant applied to a soft cloth can be used without damaging the linoleum. Concentration should be 50%. Rinse with clean water.
- Regular cleaning with a damp cloth, optional a 5% solution of pH-neutral detergent is recommended.
- Avoid solvents.
- Do not use chlorine bleach.



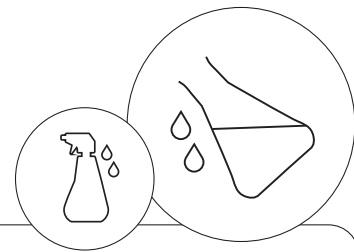
Fabrics

Polyester and Trevira CS

- Ethanol-based disinfectants can be used without damaging the textiles or changing its colour. Concentration should be between 70-85%.
- Chlorine-based detergents can be used without damaging the textiles or changing its colour. Concentration should be 1000-1200 ppm.
- Bleach disinfectants can be used without damaging the textiles or changing its colour. Use a 5% bleach concentration, mix 1 part bleach to 10 parts water.
- Upholstery textiles made out of polyester and Trevira CS can be washed in temperatures up to 80 degrees Celsius.
- Make sure to keep your fabrics as dry as possible, both during use and after eventual washing to prevent bacteria development.

Wool

- For woolen textiles we recommended dry cleaning or professional cleaning.
- Ethanol-based disinfectants can be used without damaging the textiles or changing its colour. Concentration should be between 70-85%.
- Avoid chlorine-based and bleach cleanable agents.
- We do not recommend washing woolen textiles.



IN ADDITION, the same basic principles for care and maintenance of fabrics continue to apply: vacuum upholstery regularly to remove dust, dirt and crumbs; attend to stains quickly with a damp cloth; use branded upholstery shampoo on specific types of staining; and periodically consider specialist deep cleaning services such as dry cleaning.