

Practical

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Apollo Fire Detectors protect Leadenhall Market



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'Disinfected' mop had 150,000 Clostridium difficile colonies

High temperature wash cycles recommended by an NHS guideline to process infected laundry do not kill the lethal bug Clostridium difficile, scientific tests have revealed.

Clostridium difficile infections in healthcare environments have soared in recent years. Although reporting cases has only recently been made mandatory, voluntary reporting by laboratories showed there were 43,000 in 2004 - an increase of 23 per cent.

Earlier this year, it was reported that the bug had killed a number of patients in several hospitals, including 12 people at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Despite the prevalence of the bug, the NHS still relies on a laundry guideline last updated a decade ago. The guideline, HSG (95) 18, states that infected or foul laundry should be thermally disinfected.

This means that items should be washed at no less than 65 degrees centigrade for at least 10 minutes of preferably at 71 degrees for a minimum of three minutes.

But tests by independent microbiologists have shown that the high temperature cycles are completely ineffective against Clostridium difficile.

The microbiologists, from highly respected Microsearch Laboratories, followed the guide-



then go back out to be bacteria everywhere.'

Microsearch conducted the test on behalf of leading commercial laundry equipment distributor JLA, which has developed the revolutionary

line by washing a mop head which had been used on an NHS hospital ward at 71 degrees for three minutes.

When they subsequently examined the mop head, they found it was still teeming with a staggering 150,000 colonies of Clostridium difficile.

Senior Microsearch microbiologist Mr R D O'Connor said: 'Contract cleaners are doing the best they possibly can by embracing developments such as microfibre mop heads that literally attract dust and bacteria like a magnet.

'But all their efforts are wasted because the NHS guideline on disinfection just doesn't work, as our tests have proved.

'After mops have been washed in accordance with the guideline, they used again and spread

used again and spread

OTEX laundry system.

OTEX uses mostly cold water and injects ozone into the wash process. It kills Clostridium difficile and other highly dangerous bugs such as MRSA on all wash cycles.

In another test, Microsearch analysed water containing Clostridium difficile which had been held at a temperature of 80 degrees centigrade for 15 minutes. They found the reduction of Clostridium difficile spores to be 'insignificant'. By comparison, a similar test on OTEX water found no viable trace of spores after only two-and-a-half minutes.

OTEX is widely used in care homes throughout the UK and the Commission for Social Care Inspection has confirmed that the system complies with the National Minimum Care Standards.

Following a recommendation by the Health Protection Agency's rapid review panel, the system is now due to be evaluated by the NHS.

JLA director Dick Cardis said: 'The NHS guideline covering laundry needs to be reassessed as a matter of urgency. It is based on research carried out over 35 years ago when superbugs were unheard of.

'It needs to be changed for two reasons. On the one hand, its recommendations have been proven to be ineffective against Clostridium difficile. On the other hand, it is so outdated that it takes no account of new innovations.'

As well as guaranteeing total peace of mind, OTEX also achieves substantial financial savings due to its use of cold water and the fact that it disinfects faster than high temperature cycles. Utility, detergent and labour costs are all cut dramatically.

Reader Reply No.: 85070

Circles theme for scanner suite



Colourful concentric circles and solid spheres are featured in the flooring of the reception and waiting areas at North Devon District Hospital's new MRI scanner suite.

Using a selection of non-directional shades from low maintenance Polyflor Prestige PUR heavy duty sheet vinyl flooring - from commercial flooring specialist and Contract Flooring Association Manufacturer of the Year Polyflor Ltd - the inset decoration was created via the Polyflor Expressions Design Service, which uses computerised water jet cutting techniques to produce a variety of precise shapes and styles.

Barnstaple-based North Devon

Flooring installed the flooring.

Featuring an innovative decorative appearance created by combining duotone base chips with two tonal highlight chips for a brighter, cleaner, fresher appearance, Polyflor Prestige PUR is ideally suited to busy health care, educational and commercial environments.

Polyflor Prestige PUR offers a choice of 16 bright, modern shades and features a high quality polyurethane reinforcement which, combined with a superior closed surface finish, can cut maintenance costs by up to 48% by facilitating a low cost, polish-free cleaning regime for the lifetime of the flooring.

Polyflor Prestige PUR meets the general performance requirements of EN 649 and, fully tested to fire safety standard EN 13501 - 1, is certified as Class Bfl-S 1, achieving the criteria EN ISO 9239-1 ≥ 8kw/in2 and the mandatory requirement of EN ISO 11925-2 pass. The flooring also features homogeneous monolayer construction for even wear and 100% useful life.

Reader Reply No.: 85005

Close control from AiAx

AiAX, the UK distributor for Aermec air conditioning products, is now able to offer close control units suitable for computer

rooms, laboratories, telecom exchanges and other environments where the temperature and humidity has to be closely maintained.

These products are manufactured by Tecnaire LB in Italy. They carry out specific air conditioning functions primarily high sensible heat ratio cooling together with heating, humidification, dehumidification, high efficiency filtration and ventilation. The Tecnaire LB range of close control air conditioners is made up of the K (up to 45kW) and R (from 40 to 90kW) series and offers a complete range of accessories in order to meet any system design requirements.

There are units, designated OK and OR, with upflow air discharge and

inlet either from the front or from the bottom, and units designated UK and UR, with downflow air discharge and inlet from the top.

All units can work independently or be linked in a local network to cope with load peaks efficiently. There is a choice of direct expansion coil units or chilled water units. All direct expansion models are available using ozone friendly R407C. Free cooling and two season models of K and R series units are also available in order to achieve

the maximum energy saving and security level possible.

These strategies contribute positively to the environmental impact of the units during the operation. The units are quiet, energy efficient, factory tested before despatch and come with a wide range of accessories and options.

Reader Reply No.: 85006

