

Microban AEGIS® Microbe Shield FAQs

Is the Aegis surface treatment effective for protection from viruses, bacteria, and fungi?

Several third-party technical studies (*not conducted by Microban or Trusscore*) claim that a variety of surfaces treated with Aegis exhibit positive effectiveness in fungal, bacterial, and viral environments for the conditions described:

- Aegis treated hospital-interior-surfaces show a significant and sustained reduction of viable airborne microorganisms for a long period of time [Source: Kemper R.A. et al. (2005) "Improved Control of Microbial Exposure Hazards in Hospitals: A 30-Month Field Study," page 7, Hospital Study conducted by Kemper Research Foundation, Ohio State University, Ohio State University Hospitals, Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, and Dow Corning Corporation.]
- Aegis treated surfaces show positive antiviral activity against a range of viral types [Source: "A Review: Antiviral Agent Testing Results," page 1, Aegis Microbe Shield® Technology, Aegis Environmental Management Inc., 2003.]
- Aegis Microbe Shield was found to be highly effective against microbial formation on plastic surfaces [Source: Yang J. and Guo Q. (2019) "Antimicrobial effect of AEGIS solution on E. coli," page 12, AEGIS Antimicrobial Study, University of Western Ontario.]

What's the lifespan of an Aegis surface treatment? How often should it be reapplied?

The lifespan of an Aegis treated surface for interior uses is typically 1-3 years before reapplication is recommended [Source: "The Aegis Microbe Shield Aftercare System Application Manual," page 5, Aegis Environmental Management Inc., 2000].

The lifespan is dependent on environmental factors and proper maintenance of the treatment. The Aegis surface treatment lifespan and efficacy over the lifespan are maximized by keeping the surfaces free of dirt, dust, oils (e.g., fingerprints), or any other surface soiling. These kinds of soiling can block the antimicrobial mode of action.

See the suggested after-treatment care guidelines below for further details.

What cleaning agents are compatible/incompatible with an Aegis-treated or untreated surface? What are the guidelines for Aegis after-treatment care?

All regular cleaners and disinfectants are compatible with Aegis, except highly caustic agents (over pH 11) and abrasive cleaners, which could damage the surface.

To maintain Aegis-treated surfaces and retain their maximum effectiveness, some general housekeeping practices should be followed:

1. Frequent vacuuming or washing will remove much of the soil on which organisms feed and harm the antimicrobial coating.
2. Any liquids spilled on the treated surfaces should be cleaned up immediately. They, like soil, can offer a breeding ground for microorganisms.
3. Chemical cleaning should be followed with a rinse extraction step to remove residual films.
4. Never use scouring pads abrasive cleaners, or high-pressure power washing on treated areas.
5. Do not use highly caustic agents (over pH 11) on treated areas.
6. Painting, waxing, or applying surface treatments to treated areas produces a new surface that is not microbiocidal and blocks the Aegis treatment mode of action.
7. Any condition which indicates a failure of Aegis to perform effectively (odors, visible growth) should be reported immediately to us so that remedial action can be taken.

Is TempWall made of “Medical grade” PVC? Is this necessary for the intended use?

Medical grade PVC is bio-compatible and non-toxic, intended for short- and/or long-term contact with tissue and fluids, which is needed for products such as medical devices.

The PVC used in TempWall is suitable for use as a temporary wall structure for medical environments and facilities. TempWall is intrinsically hygienic and can be cleaned in accordance with ordinary disinfecting practices needed in medical facilities. The Aegis surface treatment option is available to provide additional, permanent antimicrobial protection.

Is PVC an effective, treatable surface for Aegis?

Aegis Microbe Shield was found to be highly effective against microbial formation on plastic surfaces.

[Source: Yang J. and Guo Q. (2019) “Antimicrobial effect of AEGIS solution on E. coli,” page 12, AEGIS Antimicrobial Study, University of Western Ontario.]

Is the Aegis-treated surface safe for skin contact?

Yes, the Aegis-treated surfaces is safe for skin contact since Aegis is non-leaching and it does not contain heavy metals or poisonous biocides, as found in other antimicrobial products.

Does the Aegis-treated surface or PVC outgas? Does the product create an odor?

The PVC does not release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) since it is formulated with non-VOC-containing ingredients.

Virtually no outgassing or odor is expected for the Aegis-treated PVC. While Aegis Microbe Shield is an aqueous solution comprised of 97% water and less than 1.4% methyl alcohol, the solution is applied to the surface of TempWall and dried during manufacturing. Any odor, if present, is expected to be caused by trace, residual amounts of methyl alcohol.

The following practices are recommended to unpack TempWall and allow any odor to dissipate, if present:

1. For covered/wrapped pallets, open the pallet and let it stand for a few minutes to allow any trapped odor to dissipate
2. Wipe the TempWall panels with a microfiber cloth if odor persists after unpacking and before installation.

What's the sterilization protocol for an Aegis-treated or untreated surface? Can it be sterilized by ETO, Gamma and Beta rays, or steam?

In healthcare environments, sterilization is common surgical equipment or medical devices in contact with bodily fluids, such as medical tubing.

For temporary/modular walls in healthcare environments, there is no foreseeable need for sterilization. Cleaning and disinfecting practices is likely most appropriate and satisfactory.

However, steam sterilization is safe for both Aegis-treated and untreated surfaces. UV sterilization will also not adversely affect the Aegis treatment.

Does Microban have an Aegis "Product Overview" for Health Care?

No.