

What's so great about microfiber?



Microfiber cleaning cloths and mops work well for removing organic matter (dirt, oils, grease) as well as germs from surfaces. Microfiber's cleaning ability is the result of two simple things: more surface area and a positive charge.

What is microfiber?

- Microfiber is a synthetic material. Microfiber used for cleaning is called split microfiber. When microfibers are split, they are 100 times thinner than a single human hair. These split microfibers become much more absorbent. They can remove large quantities of molecules, including hard-to-kill spores.
- Split microfiber quality varies. Microfiber that catches slightly on the surface of your hand is better quality. Another way to tell is to push a water spill with it. If the microfiber pushes the water instead of absorbing it, then it's not split.
- A microfiber cloth has the same surface area as a cotton cloth four times as large! And it is very absorbent. It can absorb seven times its weight in water!
- Microfiber products are also positively charged, meaning they attract negatively charged dirt and grease. These characteristics of microfiber allow you to clean surfaces without chemicals.

- A study of microfiber mop usage in hospitals showed that a microfiber mop head used with a detergent cleaner removed bacteria as effectively as a cotton mop head used with a disinfectant.
- Another advantage of microfiber is that, unlike cotton, it does not, making it hard for bacteria to grow in it.
- A laundering program is necessary if microfiber is used. This can include washing mops and cloths by hand, by machine, or using a laundering service. Laundering will help prevent the spread of germs from one surface to another (called cross-contamination).
- Microfiber cloths and mops are available in grocery stores, hardware stores, big box stores, and online. Prices range from cheap (\$1.00 or less, especially when bought in bulk) to mid-range (\$3.00 – \$5.00). There are differences in quality and durability. Higher priced cloths usually have smaller fibers and pick up more dirt and dust, but even the cheap ones get good results.

Why use microfiber tools for cleaning?

- They reduce exposure to chemicals in the ECE environment and reduce pollution from cleaning chemicals.
- Microfiber is durable and reusable.
- Microfiber is made from synthetic fibers, usually polyester and nylon, which are not treated with chemicals.
- Microfiber mops are far lighter than cotton mops, helping to save the user from neck and back injuries from heavy, water-soaked cotton mops.
- Microfiber saves the ECE provider up to \$100.00 per year in cleaning costs because they are reusable and durable.
- Microfiber lasts longer than cotton. It can be washed a thousand times before losing its effectiveness.
- Microfiber uses 95% less water and chemicals than cotton mops and cloths.