

# Disinfecting Soft Goods

## Dr. Curt White

### A Webber Training Teleclass



**Disinfecting Soft Goods -  
Microbial Problems on Fabrics  
and Foams Used in Healthcare  
Settings ...  
Proactive and Reactive Strategies**

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Hosted by Paul Webber  
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**Disinfecting Soft Goods - Microbial Problems on  
Fabrics and Foams Used in Healthcare Settings –  
Proactive and Reactive Strategies.**

1. Introduction
2. Microbes – Life and Habits/Types
3. The Consequences of Microbial Growth
4. Microbes are everywhere
5. Microbial Habitats
  - Soft Goods
  - Building Materials
  - Rooms
  - Services
  - People
  - Wounds



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**Disinfecting Soft Goods - Microbial Problems on  
Fabrics and Foams Used in Healthcare Settings –  
Proactive and Reactive Strategies.**

6. Microbial Control
  - Infection Control Variables
  - Infection Control Realities
  - Dose Reduction Strategies
  - Antimicrobial Agents
7. Proactive Strategies
8. Reactive Strategies
9. Conclusions
10. Summary



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## Introduction



Enter the world of "wee beasts"  
The World Around Us – Healthcare Environments  
The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly  
This is personal and affects caregivers and Patients  
Fight or Flight?

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## Disinfecting Soft Goods

NOT A SIMPLE LAUNDRY LECTURE  
NOT A SIMPLE DISINFECTION LECTURE  
NOT A SIMPLE MICROBIOLOGY LECTURE  
NOT A SIMPLE SOFT GOODS LECTURE



**THIS IS: ALL OF THE ABOVE**

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## MICROBES



Bacteria  
– Gram (+)  
– Gram (-)  
Fungi  
– Mycelial  
– Yeast  
Algae

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#### MICROBES Life Needs

- MOISTURE
- NUTRIENTS
- PROPER TEMPERATURE
- RECEPTIVE SURFACES

If humans are comfortable,  
so are a wide range of microbes.

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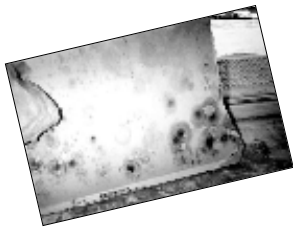
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#### The Consequence of Microbial Growth

BUILDING INFECTION:



- ODORS
- STAINS
- DETERIORATION
- BIOFILMS
- FINANCIAL LOSS
- FUNCTIONAL TIME LOST
- LIFE OF MATERIALS LOST

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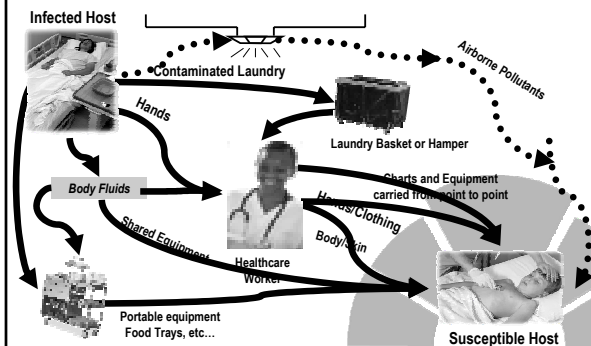
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#### The Consequence of Microbial Growth

HUMAN INFECTION:



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## The Consequence of Microbial Growth

HUMAN INFECTION:



ADDED COSTS

BED USE EXTENDED

INFECTION CONTROL PROBLEMS

EXPOSURE RISKS TO STAFF, VISITORS,  
AND OTHER PATIENTS



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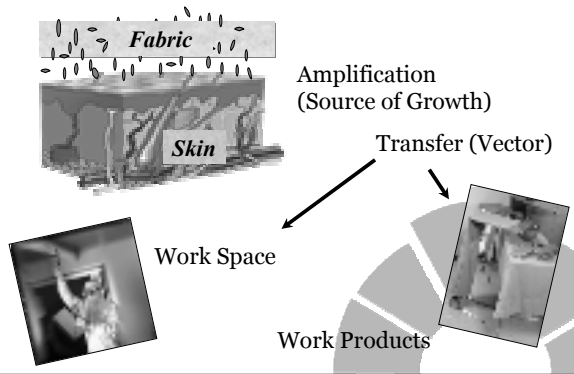
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## Microbes are Everywhere



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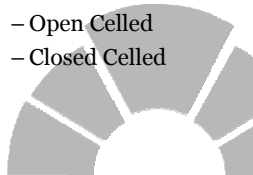
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## Microbial Habitats

Soft Goods are **EVERYWHERE**  
in the healthcare environment



- Woven Fabric
- Nonwoven Fabric
- Foams
  - Open Celled
  - Closed Celled



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## Microbial Habitats

Roofing Felts

**BUILDING MATERIALS AND FURNISHINGS**

Insulations:  
Walls  
Roof  
Pipes  
Ducts  
HVAC



Wall partitions  
Upholstery  
Foam Cushions  
Carpets  
Mats  
Toys (pediatrics)

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## Microbial Habitats

**ROOMS**



Wall Coverings  
Mats  
Bedding  
Blankets  
Towels  
Bed Pads  
Linens

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## Microbial Habitats

**SERVICES**


Lapidus Pads  
Masks  
Mayo Stand Covers  
Tuck Towels  
Incise Drapes  
Surgical Drapes  
CSR Wraps

**CLEANING:**



Wipes  
Rags  
Mops

**CAFETERIA**



Linens  
Wipes  
Rags  
Uniforms

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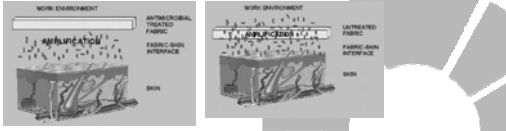
## Microbial Habitats

**PEOPLE**

- Gloves
- Shirts
- Scrubs
- Underwear
- Socks
- Smocks



- Uniforms
- Hats
- Shoes
- Pants
- Incontinence Diapers
- Baby Diapers



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## Microbial Habitats

**WOUNDS**

- Stockinettes
- Wraps
- Garments
- Gauze
- Band-Aids



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## Microbial Control

DOSE

VIRULENCE

SUSCEPTIBILITY

DOSE REDUCTION WITH BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES



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## Microbial Control: Infection Control Realities

ALL OF THE HANDWASHING PROTOCOLS  
ALL OF THE DISINFECTING PROTOCOLS  
ALL OF THE STERILIZING  
ALL OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING  
ALL OF THE SPECIALIZED FILTERS  
AND....

**STILL THERE ARE RISING HOSPITAL  
ACQUIRED DISEASE STATISTICS!**



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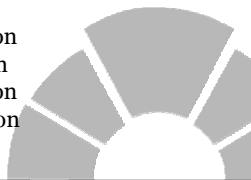
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## Microbial Control: Dose Reduction Strategies

Preventative Treatment  
After Contamination  
During Use

Antimicrobial or Antibiotics

Sterilization  
Sanitation  
Disinfection  
Preservation



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## Microbial Control: Dose Reduction Strategies

People seeking zero defect (infection), design to  
minimize human error by controlling what is  
controllable – hence, controlling dose of  
microbes from all sources seeking:

**AS LOW AS REASONABLE ATTAINABLE  
(ALARA)**



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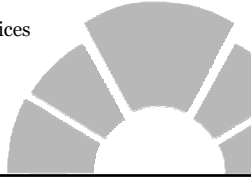
## Cleaning Practices

Microbial Habitats –  
Out-of-Sight and Out-of-Mind?

Laundry Practices

Housekeeping Practices

In-Service Practices



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## Cleaning Practices

ALTER THE PRODUCTS AND NOT THEIR FUNCTION

- Product Design (use and abuse)
- Covers
- Soil Release/Builders
- Stain Repellent/Stain Release
- Safe Antimicrobial Treatments



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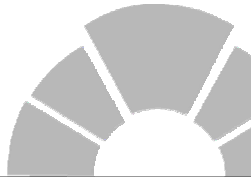
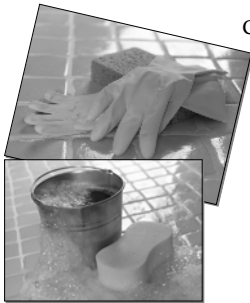
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## Cleaning Practices

CLEAN UP THE DIRT

- Physical wiping
- Surfactants
- Oxidizing Agents
- Bicarb or CO<sub>2</sub> (“Blasting”)



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## Cleaning Practices

KILL THE MICROBES/KEEP THEM KILLED

- Oxidizing Agents
- Sterilants
- Autoclaving
- Safe Antimicrobial Treatment

FOLLOW AND POST CARE INSTRUCTIONS – PROVIDE TRAINING

WORK CROSS FUNCTIONALLY TO DEFINE  
BEST PRODUCTS AND PRACTICAL RESULTS

REDUCING DOSE=REDUCING SOURCES, TRANSPORT, AND EXPOSURE



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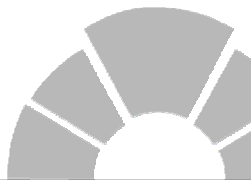
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## Microbial Control: Antimicrobial Agents



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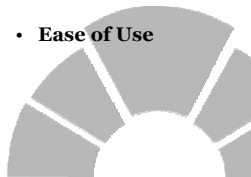
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## Antimicrobial Agents

### Differ in Their:

- Chemical Nature
- Durability
- Safety
- Mode of Operation
- Regulatory Compliance
- Effectiveness
- Cost
- Verification
- Ease of Use



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## Antimicrobial Types

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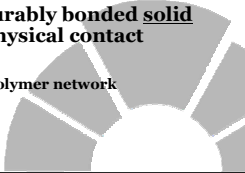
### Leachable

Leach out of substrate to inhibit growth

### Non leachable

A unique technology is a durably bonded solid that inhibits growth by physical contact

The solid is a micropolymer network



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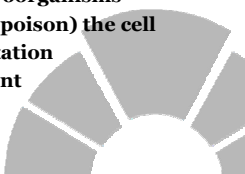
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## Conventional Antimicrobials

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Diffuse from the product to come in contact with the microbe

- Leach or migrate off the product
  - Are consumed by microorganisms
  - Chemically interrupt (poison) the cell
  - Cause microbial adaptation
  - No means of attachment
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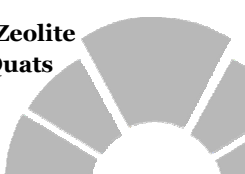
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## Conventional Antimicrobials - Examples

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- Bis chlorinated phenols
  - Organo tins (i.e. TBT)
  - Organo metallics (Pb, As, Hg)
  - Chitin
  - Silver ~~Copper~~/ Zeolite
  - Water soluble Quats
  - Biguanide
  - Isothiazolione
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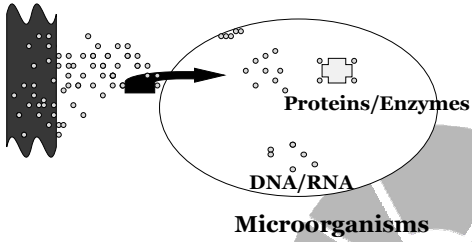
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## Mode of Action: Traditional Antimicrobials



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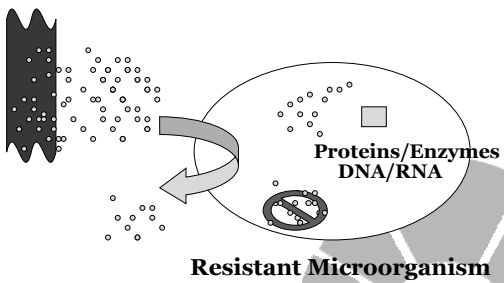
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## Mechanisms of Resistance: Traditional Antimicrobials



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## Bonded Technology

**Bound to the product controlling  
microbes on contact**

- Bonded to the product surface
- Not consumed by microbes
- Mechanically stabs the cell
- Extended functional life
- Will not cause an environment to promote microbial adaptation

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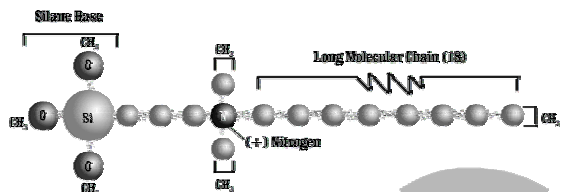
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### Silane Technology



3-(trimethoxysilyl) propyldimethyloctadecyl ammonium chloride

EPA Registration Number 34292-1

C.A.S. Number 27668-52-6

Empirical Formula C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>58</sub>ClN O<sub>3</sub>Si

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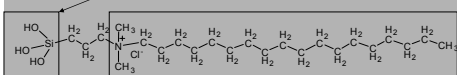
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### Covalently Binds to Surfaces

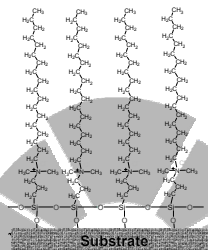


Specifically Destroys Microorganisms

Antimicrobial is covalently bound to substrate...

Functionality stays intact and active through washing and repeated exposure to microbes

Extends functional life of goods by resisting deterioration




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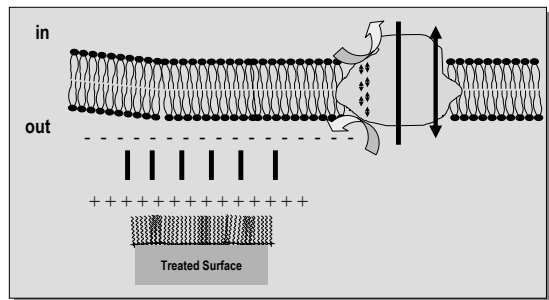
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### Ionic Association with Biological Membrane Surface




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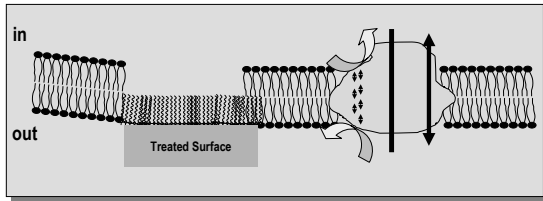
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### Physical (Integral) Association with Biological Membrane Surface



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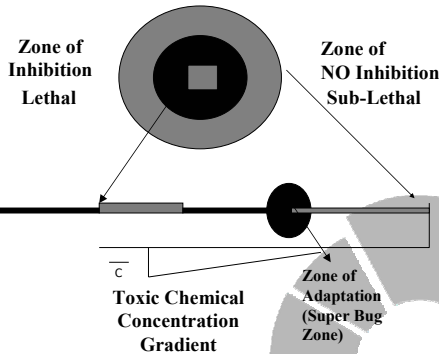
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### Zone of Inhibition Story



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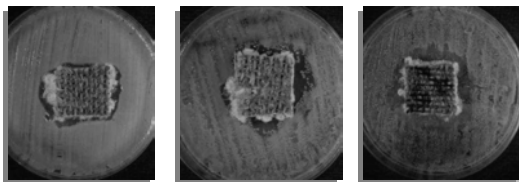
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### Microbial Adaptation



Initial Zone

Adapting Cells in the Zone

Fully Adapted Cells with Ghost Zone

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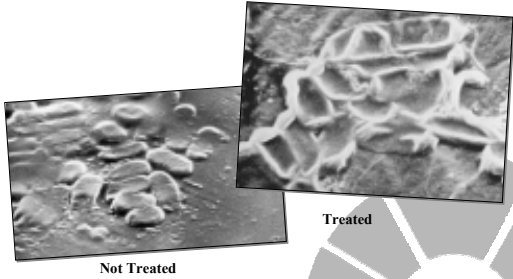
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Photographs taken by  
electronic microscope



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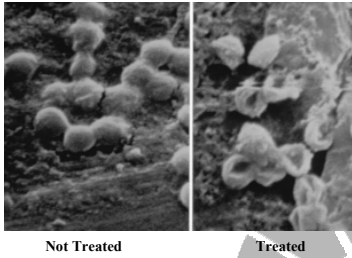
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Photographs taken by  
electronic microscope



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### Microbial Control: Proactive Strategies

Control Microbial Growth Conditions

- MOISTURE
  - TEMPERATURE
  - NUTRIENTS
  - RECEPTIVE SURFACES
- TREAT WITH A DURABLE LONG-LASTING ANTIMICROBIAL

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#### Microbial Control – Reactive Strategies

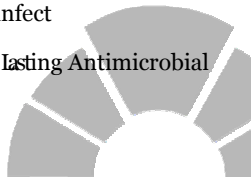
Throw out (burn or landfill)

Dry Out

Clean (Laundry, w/wo Sanitizers)

Sanitize/Disinfect

Treat with a Durable Long Lasting Antimicrobial



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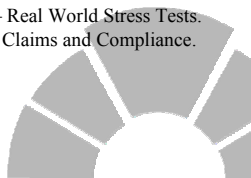
#### Conclusion

You MUST know:

- **Your Enemy** – The Problem Microbes.
- **The Antimicrobial** – “Womb to Tomb” Properties.
- **The Desired Substrate** – Compatibility and Durability.
- **The Manufacturing Process** – Safety, Compatibility, and Quality Assurance.
- **The Use and Abuse Conditions** – Real World Stress Tests.
- **The Regulatory Requirements** – Claims and Compliance.

AND.....

DO NO HARM



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#### The Next Few Teleclasses

September 20 (South Pacific Teleclass)

**SARS in Singapore – What Can We Learn**  
... with Dr. Chris Wynne, New Zealand

October 5

**Neonatal Sepsis, A 2006 Update**  
... with Dr. Anne Matlow, Hospital for Sick Children

October 12

**The Changing Role of Infection Prevention and Control as Documented by the CBIC Practice Analysis**  
... with members of the CBIC Board

#### **Infection Control Week**

October 19

**Hand Hygiene – Improving Compliance**  
... with Dr. John Boyce, Hospital of St. Raphael

For the full teleclass schedule – [www.webbertraining.com](http://www.webbertraining.com)  
For registration information [www.webbertraining.com/howtoc8.php](http://www.webbertraining.com/howtoc8.php)

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