



## Maintenance and the Use of Disinfectants

# Healthcare Privacy Curtains

You have entrusted Milliken & Company as your textile supplier, and the Milliken team wants to support you and your efforts to provide cleaning and disinfecting information to your customers.

### Regular Maintenance – Washing guidelines

Please follow the listed washing care guidelines to maintain optimal performance, durability, and quality of the product:

- Inspect and ensure that the washing machine is free of burrs or sharp objects that can cause snagging to prevent the product from being damaged.
- Wash the product with like colors and products.
  - Separate colors during washing to prevent color bleeding.
  - Do not combine with other products (e.g. towels, sheets, etc.) because this could cause reverse pilling.
- Do not overload the washing machine.
  - Overloading can prevent the products from being fully cleaned.
  - Stay below the recommended load size.
- Machine wash with warm water (120 °F – 160 °F).
  - Hotter temperatures can damage the polyester product.
  - Cold water may not disinfect the product properly.
- If needed, use non-chlorine bleach.
  - Non-chlorine bleach will prevent the colors from degrading.
  - Do not use chlorine bleach.

## Regular Maintenance – Drying guidelines

Please follow the listed drying care guidelines to maintain optimal performance, durability, and quality of the product:

- Load dryers to 50% of rated capacity.
  - Do not overload the dryer.
  - Overloading can cause the products to become wrinkled and increase the time needed to dry the product fully.
- Do not use any fabric softeners. Fabric softeners can either cause the products to slip and shift or negate the product's FR properties.
- Inspect and ensure that the drying machine is free of burrs or sharp objects that can cause snagging to prevent the product from being damaged.
- Dry the product with like colors and products.
  - Separate colors during washing to prevent color bleeding.
  - Do not combine with other products (e.g. towels, sheets, etc.) because this could cause reverse pilling.
- Set the heat cycle for a fabric temperature of 180 °F – 200 °F.
  - A lower temperature will require a longer time to dry the product, while a higher temperature can cause the fabric to shrink.
- The fabric product must be dry before the cooling cycle begins. The drying time usually varies between 10 – 20 minutes, depending on extraction, load size, and temperature.
- The fabric and walls of the dryer must be cooled down to room temperature before the dryer is stopped.
  - Approximate cool-down times will range from 8 – 15 minutes. It is recommended that the fabric be cooled to 100 °F before removing it.
- Fabrics should be unloaded from the dryer immediately after the cycle is complete to avoid unnecessary wrinkling.
- Iron on low if needed.
  - Higher temperatures can melt the polyester fabric.

## Use of Disinfectants

For concerns related to COVID-19, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)). According to the CDC guidelines, surfaces should be cleaned before using disinfecting products. If disinfection is required, use one of the procedures outlined in the CDC's guidelines for disinfecting porous materials.

1. Use EPA-registered household disinfectant as directed.\*\*
2. Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.
3. Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface.

**Regardless of which active ingredient is chosen, it is important to consider a few primary concerns as your customers consider the need for regular application of disinfectants:**

- **Frequency:** One-time application of EPA-approved broad use disinfectants are generally well tolerated. The main concern is the impact to textiles where repeated and frequent application takes place. To minimize the impact of higher frequency application, it may be necessary to wipe down the fabric with a damp, clean cloth to remove residual chemicals from the textile after following the disinfectant's recommended wait time.
- **Chemical concentrations and dilution:** When required, special care should be taken to properly dilute the disinfectant per the disinfectant manufacturer's user manual and equipment manufacturer user manual depending on how the disinfectant will be applied.
  - If using the bleach method for disinfection, please visit the CDC's website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) for the latest recommendation.
  - **Note:** For healthcare facilities, please visit the CDC's website ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)) regarding the 'Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities.'
- **Pre-test every cleaning and disinfecting agent:** As with any cleaning product, test the cleaning or disinfecting agent to be used on an inconspicuous area to make sure it doesn't change the color or texture of the textile. Allow test area to completely dry; then check for any physical change before proceeding. If there is a physical change, do not continue. Pretest additional products until a safe spotting agent is found or call a professional cleaning technician.

*\*Cleanability code adopted by the furniture industry by a joint industry committee.*

*\*\*Milliken has not validated the effect on the fabric of long-term use of this complete list of disinfectants.*

**Please Note:** As each customer's use of our product may be different, information we provide, including without limitation, recommendations, test results, samples, care/labeling/processing instructions or marketing advice, is provided in good faith but without warranty and without accepting any responsibility/liability. Each customer must test and be responsible for its own specific use, further processing, labeling, marketing, etc. All prices are subject to change. All sales are exclusively subject to our standard terms of sale posted at [www.milliken.com/terms](https://www.milliken.com/terms) (all additional/different terms are rejected) unless explicitly agreed otherwise in a signed writing.