

## Microfibre for Different Cleaning Tasks

There are different Microfibre weaves and weave densities for specific tasks. Ask the supplier about the grading system and which grade is best for specific cleaning tasks.

### Floors:

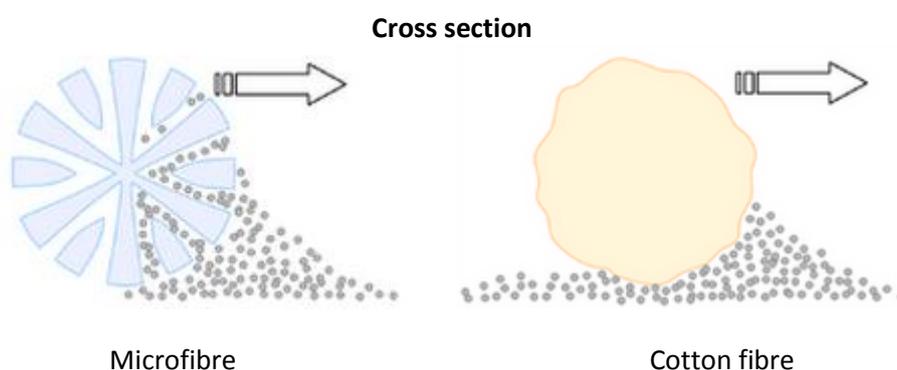


- **Wet mopping:** use wet mop pads for hard surface floors, changing pads between areas to reduce microbial load and cross contamination. Chlorine/bleach reduces Microfibre life
- **Dust mopping:** use a Microfibre dust mops with a fringe around the edge, these more closely resemble conventional mops and also pick up larger pieces of debris
- **Floor finishing:** if desired, use Microfibre to apply floor finish with a specially designed flat mop that reduces fatigue and easily applies the product
- **Scrubbing:** Microfibre floor pads for auto scrubbers are available and use less water and chemicals, while cleaning and polishing more effectively

### Other areas:



- **Glass:** glass cleaning cloths have a much tighter fibre weave than a dusting or wet cleaning cloth. Many prefer using a wet Microfibre glass cloth for cleaning the surface and then a dry glass cloth for polishing. In many cases water is all that is needed
- **Dusting:** these soft fibre cloths require no polish or other chemical while efficiently and effectively removing most dust, dirt, etc
- **Wet cleaning:** used for all wet cleaning tasks, these require a reduced amount of chemical for effective cleaning. Start by spraying the cloth with a minimal amount of all-purpose cleaner and add more product as needed or dip into a container of cleaning solution. Chlorine/bleach reduces Microfibre life
- **High-dusting wands:** wands reach places that are difficult to access and remove the dirt and dust that has accumulated



## Washing instructions

**Washing:** Microfibre should be washed only with other Microfibre materials because it can pull the lint out of cotton or other materials during the washing and drying process. Use a mild laundry detergent, and never use bleach, fabric softener, or dryer sheets because they can degrade the fabric

- **Drying:** Microfibre can be line dried or dried using the low setting of an automatic drier
- **Caution:** Microfibre is flammable and burning Microfibre can emit toxic fumes. Therefore, Microfibre should be dried only using low heat. Follow the manufacturer's cleaning and management instructions.

## What is Microfibre?

**Microfibre** or Microfiber is synthetic fibre finer than 1/100th the diameter of a human hair. The most common types of Microfibres are made from polyesters, polyamides (e.g., nylon, Kevlar), or a conjugation of polyester, polyamide, and polypropylene. The shape, size, and combinations of synthetic fibres are selected for specific characteristics, including softness, toughness, absorption, water repellancy, electrostatics, and filtering capabilities.

The small-size fibre is able to penetrate cracks and crevasses that cotton cloths or paper towels are not able to reach. The increased surface area of the fibres and their star shape enable them to absorb up to 7 to 8 times their weight in liquid. This capillary action is mechanically increased by the scrubbing movements during cleaning. The fibres have a static electric charge that attracts dust and holds it well, rather than spreading it around or releasing it into the air when dry dusting.

The cloths and mops can be washed and reused hundreds of times, however there is ongoing research to determine the efficacy of Microfibre after being washed numerous times.

Microfibre comes in different grades for a variety of uses. The term Microfibre technically applies to fibre that is 1.0 denier or smaller, but some being sold under the Microfibre name has not been split and has a larger denier measurement. The smaller the denier measurement, the finer and more effective the Microfibre. Superior or ultra Microfibre measures 0.13 denier.

When purchasing Microfibre, make sure it is from a reputable manufacturer and that the fibres are split and are a smaller denier measurement.

## Infection-control benefits

Ability to capture microbes and minimise microbial growth: Microfibre is more effective at capturing microbes and dries (sheds water) more quickly than traditional cloths and mops, which also helps to prevent the growth of microbes inside the fabric. Several studies have determined that Microfibre is far better at capturing bacteria than cotton:

- The University of California, Davis Medical Center compared the amount of bacteria picked up by a cotton-loop mop and by a Microfibre mop. The cotton-loop mop reduced bacteria on the floors by 30%, whereas the Microfibre mop reduced bacteria by 99%.
- In another study, the Microfibre system tested demonstrated superior microbial removal compared with conventional string mops when used with a detergent cleaner (94% vs 68%). The use of a disinfectant did not improve the microbial elimination demonstrated by the Microfibre system (95% vs 94%). However, use of disinfectant significantly improved microbial removal when a conventional string mop was used (95% vs 68%) (WA Rutala, unpublished data, August 2006). The Microfibre system also prevents the possibility of transferring microbes from room to room because a new Microfibre pad should and can easily be used in each room.

## Cost-saving benefits

The University of California Davis Medical Center study found that initiating a Microfibre mopping system also resulted in the following cost benefits:

- 60% life time cost savings for mops
- 95% reduction in chemical and water usage associated with mopping tasks
- 20% labour savings per day

The Sustainable Hospitals Project at the University of Massachusetts Lowell found :

- a reduction in water and chemical usage
- Microfibre mop pads last 10 times longer than a cotton-loop mop

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