Transport Fabrics
Anti-microbial Solutions.
For the new world order in sanitation and hygiene.
Coronavirus has caused global turmoil and placed new emphasis on issues of hygiene and sanitation. While it’s impossible to apply social distancing to the seats we sit on when we travel, what we can do is make our transit and motorcoach upholstery as safe and as easy to clean as possible when it comes to infection control.
Our upholstery solutions provide anti-microbial and bleach cleanable options across wool and vinyl products, helping control bacterial infection and providing easier cleaning in the new era of public health hygiene.

Our collection of performance vinyls is available from stock, while our Defender treatment is available on request and brings anti-microbial protection to plush wool fabrics.
What do we know so far?

Research is pointing to the spread of the virus taking place more easily from hard rather than soft surfaces – better news for fabrics, take care with those grab handles, plastic seat trays and hard plastic seats.

A Harvard University report says that “available evidence suggests Coronavirus can be transmitted less easily from soft surfaces than frequently-touched hard surfaces, such as a doorknob or elevator button”. This is supported by earlier work conducted by the US National Center for Biotechnology Information which found that flu viruses “survived for 24-48 hours on hard, nonporous surfaces such as stainless steel and plastic, but survived for less than 8-12 hours on cloth, paper, and tissues”.
Wool fabrics and Defender anti-microbial treatment.

Our plush wool fabrics are made from a high percentage of nature's most intelligent fiber type, pure new wool. Wool is safe (naturally flame-retardant), healthy (breathable, air purifying, acoustic) and durable, with long-lasting appearance retention and a level of natural resistance to soiling.

Its multiple smart abilities are further enhanced through the addition of Defender, a powerful triple action post-treatment specially formulated for use with plush wool fabrics.
Defender treatment is:

Antimicrobial  Antifungal  Anti-stain

The anti-microbial element is based on low concentration silver technologies, with no human toxicity, protecting against bacteria such as Staphylococcus aureus, MRSA, Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium.

Defender allows liquid spills to bead up on the fabric’s surface rather than soak in.

Defender inhibits the growth of bacteria and fungus which thrive in warm conditions common to many transport interiors.

Defender treatment can be applied to the following wool fabrics:

- Aura Classic
- Wired
- Hybrid
- Fusion
- Aura Twist
- Vigor

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High performance bleach cleanable vinyls.

For the ultimate easy clean upholstery solution, we have a number of performance vinyls which can be used as standalone finishes to trim the entire bus or coach seat, or provide great accent touches for headrests, side panels or seat pads.

Rhino, Vita and Manila benefit from a robust protective finish which allows full bleach cleanability, meaning any germs will be killed immediately in a quick wipe down cleaning action. Vita and Manila also have an added anti-microbial treatment which protects against bacterial infection such as MRSA, Salmonella and E.coli.
Technical Information

**Wool**

- **Composition**: High content wool blend with 100% cotton or polyester blend backing.
- **Width**: 59 inches minimum.
- **Abrasion Resistance**: ≥80,000 Martindale cycles (BS EN ISO 12947).
- **Flammability**: FMVSS 302, ECE Reg 118 Part 2, BS 5852 Ignition Source 7.
- **Light Fastness**: 6 (ISO 105 - B02).
- **Fastness to crocking**: Wet: 4, Dry: 4 (ISO 105 X12).

Technical Information

**Vinyl - Vita/Manila**

- **Composition**: PVC with 100% cotton backing.
- **Width**: 54 inches minimum.
- **Abrasion Resistance**: BS EN 5470-Method 1, Wool Abradant (Grade 2 minimum) ≥100,000 Martindale cycles, ISO 7854, Method B 400,000 flexing cycles.
- **Flammability**: FMVSS 302, ECE Regulation No.118 Part 2/Part 3, FAR/JAR25.853, BS 5852 Ignition Source 7 with interliner.
- **Light Fastness**: AATCC-16 (40 hours) Class 4.
- **Fastness to crocking**: Wet: 3/4, Dry: 4 (AATCC-8).

Technical Information

**Vinyl - Rhino**

- **Composition**: PVC with 100% polyester backing.
- **Width**: 54 inches minimum.
- **Abrasion Resistance**: ASTM D4157 / ACT Coated 50K Wyzenbeek method ≥50,000 double rubs, CFFA 1a Cotton Duck Wyzenbeek method ≥250,000 double rubs.
- **Flammability**: FMVSS 302, NFPA 130, DOCKET 90, FR performance is dependent on the components used.
- **Fastness to crocking**: Wet: 4, Dry: 4 (AATCC-8).
- **QUV**: 650 hours (CFFA-2-C1).

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Q Are any of these products or treatments effective against Coronavirus?

Anti-microbial treatments protect against a wide range of bacteria which cause infection - such as MRSA, Salmonella and E.coli - and so can provide added hygiene benefits in busy public transport applications. They have not yet been tested against Covid-19, but we would hope to establish their effectiveness when testing laboratories are in a position to do so. The claims of some fabric companies may be misleading, as they have tested against a feline strain of Coronavirus, which is not the same as the human strain which causes Covid-19.

Q What cleaning recommendations would you advise now that everyone is more concerned with hygiene?

Vinyl upholstery can be cleaned with alcohol cleaners or bleach, using a 10% bleach chlorine solution. Defender treated fabrics are not only anti-microbial, but are also equipped with anti-stain protection which provides an extra barrier against liquid spills and dry soiling. The same basic principles of upholstery care and maintenance continue to apply now there is even more emphasis on sanitation: weekly industrial vacuuming to remove dust, dirt, grit and food debris; bi-annual professional cleaning of wool upholstery and application of steam to restore the upholstery pile to its original upright alignment; attending to stains as soon as possible, using branded upholstery shampoo and testing first on an inconspicuous part of the fabric.

Q I have seen photos of tube trains in London being doused in anti-viral spray. Is this to disinfect the fabrics?

No. Transport for London have confirmed that the anti-viral spray has actually been used as a precautionary measure on the hard surfaces of the carriage, especially which people have touched, or might have sneezed or coughed on. This includes the grab handles, support rails, doors and floors.
Additional Resources

Product catalogue – designs, colours and technical specifications for all stock-backed products:
Click here

Defender brochure:
Click here

Fabric cleaning guide:
Click here

Vinyl cleaning and technical guide:
Click here