

LAUNDERED MOPS VS. SINGLE-USE MOPS

Environmental Comparisons

A recent study evaluated laundered microfiber mops from eleven hospitals and found that 27.3% of the newly laundered mops contained microbial contamination, including HAI pathogens.



Three of these ten mops are contaminated with pathogens.

	Washable	Advantex® Single-Use
Reduces Detergents & Disinfectants by More Than Half	✗	✓
Delivers Disinfectant Without Neutralizing It	✗	✓
Water and Sewer Savings	✗	✓
Eliminates Energy Required for Laundering	✗	✓
Eliminates Chemical Footprint to Launder	✗	✓
Eliminates Energy Footprint to Dry	✗	✓
Water Conservation - Eliminates Wash & Waste Water	✗	✓
Reduces Global Emissions Footprint	✗	✓
Potential to Be Recycled	✗	✓
Eliminates Daily Transportation Cost / Gas Usage	✗	✓
Reduction of Manufacturing Environmental Footprint Cost, Energy, Watering Cotton, Pesticides, and Chemical Use Associated with Farming and Manual Labor	✗	✓

KEY FINDINGS

- Laundry considerations: The typical hot water temperature in the laundering process specifies 160°F-200°F for microfiber mops or cloths and excludes the use of bleach unless necessary. Bleach is required for a cold-water laundering method at 5-150 ppm.
- A myopic view simply focuses on waste (disposable products) going in a landfill. In reality, laundered products require transportation and a carbon footprint that includes using energy, water, and chemicals to be effective.
- Single-use mops use half the chemicals resulting in less waste and efficient cleaning. Overall, the life cycle is better for the environment than laundered mops.

Geerpres® understands the importance of environmental impact related to cleaning products; however, patient care and safety ultimately must come first.

Many hospitals are moving to single-use microfiber mops and wipes to help reduce the risk of HAIs from floor surfaces. Single-use mops remove the potential of cross-contamination with virgin microfiber in every use while eliminating the risk of efficacy degradation through microfiber structural breakdown or pathogen retainage in the mop, as a result of an inadequate laundering process.

	Washable	Advantex® Single-Use
Eliminates Cross-Contamination	✗	✓
Minimizes Nosocomial Infections	✗	✓
Reduces Detergents & Disinfectants by More Than Half	✗	✓
Delivers Disinfectant Without Neutralizing It	✗	✓
Eliminates Outside Laundry Audits for Compliance	✗	✓
Ability to Determine Cleaning Efficacy	✗	✓
Eliminates Back & Shoulder Injuries	✗	✓
USP 797 Compliant	✗	✓
Produced Utilizing Aseptic Techniques - ISO Cleanroom	✗	✓

KEY FINDINGS

- Synthetic, disposable (single-use) mops and wipes represent a minimal footprint and should be considered against the laundering process and its waste and energy implications.
- Factors to consider include single-use microfiber mops use less water and energy by eliminating the laundering cycle.

Bacteria, pathogens and soils photographed with a Variable Pressure Scanning Electron Microscope on a 4mm² area of a clean laundered mop.

