ECHOPANEL® (unprinted panels & tiles)
CARE & CLEANING GUIDE

WOVEN IMAGE®
SAINT-GOBAIN

The Australian Government's Department of Health (2020) suggests that the length of time that SARS-COV-2 (the cause of COVID-19) survives on inanimate surfaces will vary depending on the amount of contaminated body fluid present, such as respiratory droplets, and environmental temperature and humidity. It is unlikely that Corona viruses will survive for long once droplets produced by coughing or sneezing dry out[1].

Safe Work Australia (2020) recommends a combination of cleaning and disinfecting as the most effective way to remove the COVID-19 virus from surfaces in the workplace. They make the following distinction between cleaning and disinfecting[2]:
- Cleaning is the physical removal of germs, dirt, and organic matter from surfaces.
- Disinfecting is using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces.

It is important to clean before disinfecting because organic matter and dirt can inactivate the ability of disinfectants to kill germs.

EchoPanel® is generally used on wall and ceiling surfaces, which the Department of Health (2020) deem to be touched minimally. Following the below cleaning instructions when wall, ceiling or divider surfaces are visibly dusty or soiled is considered adequate.

CLEANING

Warning: Do not saturate EchoPanel® with water or other cleaning liquids.

Regular cleaning
- Protect from direct sunlight.
- Vacuum regularly using low suction and smooth attachment.
- Professional cleaning recommended.
- Do not use dishwashing or laundry detergents, only use upholstery detergent.
- Allow to dry away from direct heat thoroughly before re-use.

Spot cleaning
- Treat spills and stains as soon as possible.
- Avoid concentrated rubbing and use minimal pressure only.
- Gently scrape soil or mop liquid from the surface, do not scrub.
- Apply proprietary cleaning agents strictly according to instructions to remove the residue of the spill.
- Dry cleaning solvent can be used for spot cleaning.
- Ensure adequate ventilation if the product is likely to be subject to excessive moisture.

DISINFECTING

The Department of Health (2020) suggests the use of a disinfectant for which the manufacturer claims antiviral activity, such as commonly used chlorine-based disinfectants like household bleach with active ingredient Sodium Hypochlorite, or hospital grade disinfectants with active ingredient Benzalkonium Chloride.

A variety of strengths of household bleach are available. The concentration of active ingredient can be found on the product label. The Department of Health (2020) recommends using a 1000ppm (0.1%) bleach solution.

For example; White King Premium Bleach has a concentration of 4.0% Chlorine, so to achieve a 0.1% bleach solution, you would use 1 part bleach to 39 parts water, or 250ml bleach in standard 10L bucket of water.

Preparation and use of bleach solution
Bleach solutions should be made up daily using manufacturer's instructions for appropriate dilution and use. Using a disposable paper towel or cloth, wipe the cleaned surface of EchoPanel® with bleach solution. Sufficient time is required to kill the virus, i.e., at least 10 minutes contact time. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves and protective eye wear, should be worn when handling and preparing bleach solutions or disinfectants.

Use of disinfectant wipes
Using a disposable disinfectant wipe with active ingredient Benzalkonium Chloride 0.47% w/w, wipe the cleaned surface of EchoPanel®. Sufficient time is required to kill the virus, i.e., at least 10 minutes contact time.

References:
1 Australian Government Department of Health. (2020). Environmental cleaning and disinfection principles for COVID-19.
   https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19.pdf
2 Safe Work Australia. (2020). Cleaning to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
   https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/COVID-and-Cleaning-info-sheet.pdf