

# COPPER: THE BACTERIA-FIGHTING METAL

Every day, high-touch surfaces present health risks to people in public spaces, and especially the most vulnerable in healthcare.

With naturally antimicrobial properties, copper can kill up to 99.9% of bacteria on surfaces and slow the spread of diseases.

## How Antimicrobial Copper Works:

Antimicrobial copper kills bacteria in three sequential steps.

Antimicrobial copper continuously kills bacteria, never wears out, and is safe to use.



### Enters

Copper ions on the surface are recognized as an essential nutrient and enter the bacteria cell.



### Disrupts

Copper ions interfere with normal cell functions and membrane integrity.



### Kills

When excess copper binds to the enzymes, the bacteria can no longer breathe, eat, digest or create energy.

Source: CuVerro, Copper Development Association

## Copper Applications

Antimicrobial copper surfaces are well-suited for use in high-touch areas including public transportation, hospitals and healthcare facilities, educational and commercial office spaces.

### Public Transportation

Push plates



Railings



Stanchions



IV poles



### Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities

Bathroom fixtures



Hospital beds



Door handles



Copper products come in a variety of forms including full copper alloys, functional copper surfaces and copper patches. They can replace existing surfaces and equipment or be applied to retrofit existing objects.



Copper is the only solid metal touch surface registered as a public health product by Health Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



A study found that copper hospital beds in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) harbored an average of 95% fewer bacteria than conventional hospital beds.

Sources: VanEck, Teck, Copper Development Association, Washington Post, American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

As a major copper producer, Teck is committed to raising awareness and advocating for the use of copper as an innovative solution to reduce the spread of infections.

# Teck

Learn more about copper's essential role in protecting public health.

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