Copper Development Association
Copper Alliance

Antimicrobial Copper Cu+

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Infection Control at Your Fingertips

A company has produced the world's first commercially-available Antimicrobial Copper keyboard, bearing the Cu+ mark that confirms rapid and continuous efficacy against disease-causing pathogens.

Copper is inherently antimicrobial, meaning it will kill bacteria and viruses that settle on its surface, quickly and completely. It shares this efficacy with many commonly-used alloys, such as brasses and bronzes, and they are collectively described as 'antimicrobial copper'.

A three-centre clinical trial of antimicrobial copper components, conducted in the United States and funded by the Department of Defense, identified computer input devices as being among the most contaminated surfaces in an intensive care unit patient's vicinity.

Along with other highly-contaminated surfaces, these were replaced with antimicrobial copper equivalents and contamination measured and compared with non-copper surfaces. The study found a median 97% reduction in contamination on the copper surfaces, and also revealed a greater than 40% reduction in a patient's risk of acquiring a hospital infection when staying in ICU rooms equipped with just six antimicrobial copper surfaces.

In a recent survey of 220 infection control practitioners – conducted by Copper Development Association to assess the key touch surfaces to prioritise when implementing antimicrobial copper – almost 20% of them placed keyboards on their list of highest-risk surfaces for the spread of infection.

Operator Interface Technology now offers a waterproof keyboard, allowing regular cleaning and disinfection, with antimicrobial copper keys and front plate.

For more information on this, and a range of Antimicrobial Copper touch surface fixtures and fittings, medical equipment and furniture, visit the Antimicrobial Copper Product Directory.

Operator Interface Technology's new antimicrobial copper keyboard

For further information, contact:

Name: Bryony Samuel
Position: Communications Officer
Telephone: 01442 275705
Email: bryony.samuel@copperalliance.org.uk
Website: www.antimicrobialcopper.org