

# TOP 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANTIMICROBIALS

<p>NO EVIDENCE OF BENEFIT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>They lack proof to back up claims that they protect your health.</b> Despite the growing popularity of antimicrobial products, there is currently no evidence demonstrating they make people healthier.</li> <li>2. <b>They're not necessary</b>, according to the <a href="#">CDC</a>. While tempting to use antimicrobial products in hospitals and other healthcare settings as a way to ensure cleanliness, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say it's not worth it, and that hospitals are better off using proper cleaning practices and maintaining their HVAC systems.</li> <li>3. <b>They're no more effective at combatting illness-causing germs than plain soap</b>, according to the FDA. After studying the issue for nearly 40 years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that antimicrobials in hand soaps are not only ineffective, but can also cause harm. The result is a <a href="#">national ban on antimicrobial additives</a> in consumer hand soaps, effective in 2017.</li> </ol>
<p>IMPACT ON HUMANS &amp; ENVIRONMENT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>They increase the risk of super-bugs.</b> The widespread use of antimicrobials may contribute to the formation and spread of illness-causing germs that <a href="#">no longer respond to medical treatment</a>.</li> <li>5. <b>They may harm the environment</b>, according to the USGS. Antimicrobials are, by definition, pesticides. Therefore, they might pose inherent hazards to human health and the environment. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) cited the antimicrobial triclosan as one of the most frequently found water contaminants</li> </ol>
<p>CUSTOMER DEMAND</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <b>They are not desired by Customers.</b> <a href="#">Kaiser Permanente</a> in 2015 banned antimicrobial agents for use in its hospitals and other buildings and implemented purchasing standards into its product-sourcing processes that include criteria for safe chemicals including total elimination of antibacterial agents at its facilities.</li> <li>7. Architects like <b>Perkins+Will</b> have placed "<a href="#">Products Marketed as Antimicrobial</a>" on its <a href="#">Precautionary List</a>, and advises clients to choose alternative products where appropriate.</li> </ol>
<p>REGULATIONS &amp; NGO PRESSURE</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. NGOs like <a href="#">Healthy Building Network</a> and <a href="#">Green Science Policy Institute</a> have attacked and now influence end users to ban procurement on products with antimicrobial treatments.</li> <li>9. <b>They aren't always advertised clearly or accurately.</b> The use of antimicrobial additives in building products is governed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), guided by a complicated regulation known as the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The complexities of this law make it possible for manufacturers to stretch the truth of their marketing claims about the benefits of antimicrobial products, potentially misleading consumers.</li> <li>10. In 2013, <b>Tarkett</b> moved away from using anti-microbials due to customer demand, NGO pressure, inefficacy of using them and, Tarkett's own environmental position of using "Good Materials" that does not have a negative impact on humans or the environment.</li> </ol>

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