

Preventive Hygiene



KUSCH+CO



Minimising the infection risk through preventive hygiene.

The rapid, global spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has clearly demonstrated that a preventive hygiene concept is a question of vital importance these days. This insight not only holds true in medical and care environments, it also applies to everyday situations. For instance, in offices and administration buildings, in training classrooms and conference rooms, in company canteens, in hotels and restaurants, in airports and railway stations, and in a multitude of waiting rooms in public buildings.



Photo left and above: Tom Bauer / IKE Technical University Braunschweig 2020

In much-frequented environments where many people come together, the risk of germs transmission through droplet or smear infection rapidly rises. Current scientific knowledge states that viruses are able to survive for only a few hours or a few days at most on surfaces; on the other hand, germs and other microorganisms can persist and multiply for several months there.

Regular and thorough cleaning and disinfection of all contact surfaces is required to reduce the infection risk for humans.

When implementing preventive hygiene measures, hygiene-optimised furniture plays a vital role.

Kusch+Co. A competent partner in hygienic safety.

Hospitals and residential care facilities have always been a key market for the contract furniture business. With their finger always on the pulse of the healthcare sector, Kusch+Co was able to identify the risks associated with multiresistant germs that have been cropping up in more and more hospitals and pose a threat to healthy persons. Back in 2006, they developed their kuschmed® Hygienic-Line, under the scientific supervision of the Institute of Hygiene and Environmental Medicine affiliated to the Charité Berlin, consisting of a multitude of hygiene-oriented series.

Through their construction and the materials selection, these products minimise the infection risk by reducing the number of adhesion points for germs and pathogens to an absolute minimum, and are therefore ideally suited for a thorough and safe disinfection. The revised German Infection Protection Act (2011) validated this approach, laying down that all scientifically approved measures must be taken with the aim of preventing the spread of nosocomial, i.e. hospital-acquired, infections.

For their R&D in the field of hygiene, Kusch+Co relies on a close co-operation with hygiene specialists with a clinical background as well as on active feedback from hospitals.



Partner in baseline studies.

Kusch+Co actively participates in scientific studies – e.g. in the Project HYBAU+ (constructional hygiene in hospitals) as well as in the follow-up study KARMIN (hospital, architecture, microbiomes and infections in hospitals).

These studies were conducted with the aim of providing a better basis for decision-making, for instance, whether, in the face of the rise of multi-resistant germs, German hospitals should have more single rooms – or whether in terms of infection prevention, twin patient rooms can provide the same hygienic safety.

Protection against germs, microbes and co.

Hygienic Solutions.

Neither concealed nor hardly accessible spots for disinfection.



Surfaces chosen as to provide the least possible adhesion to germs, microbes and mildew.

Upholstery fabrics impervious to liquids, permanently impervious too and growth-inhibiting for germs.



Dirt-repellent, pore-free wooden, metal or plastic surfaces.

Self-sealing upholstery, featuring a concealed and inaccessible fabric fixation.



Seamless seat base to enable optimum disinfection.

Stable chassis with invisible, inside screw fixations for legs, arms and upholstery.

Arn as master products in mock-up patient rooms.

In their capacity as industrial partner, Kusch+Co has furnished the mock-up patient room within the framework of the KARMIN project.

Among other products, the mock-up room features the Arn chair: the hygiene experts meticulously tested the mechanical cleaning properties of the plastic and aluminium surfaces.

Arn passed with flying colours. Next to the excellent hygienic properties, Arn's upmarket design quality accounts for the selection as master product.



Photo below and right: Tom Bauer / IKE Technical University Braunschweig 2020





Mock-up patient room as proposed by the KARMIN project.

Specially designed furniture that supports hygiene measures.

In today's globalised world, people are exposed to an increased risk from the transmission of germs, viruses and bacteria. This shows the importance of preventive hygiene.

Furniture is in the direct contact area of people, so it must be integrated into the assessment of hygiene risks.

The increased occurrence of health-threatening or even multi-resistant germs is not only a threat to people with a weakened immune system. While viruses only survive on surfaces for a few hours or days, bacteria and other microorganisms can remain there for several months and multiply. People are constantly exposed to the risk of droplet or smear infection.

Clean and then disinfect

Regular cleaning followed by thorough disinfection is a good way of preventing smear infections. The "Verbund für angewandte Hygiene e. V. (VAH)" regularly publishes recommendations for disinfectants with regard to use and germs.

Only the combination of cleaning and disinfection ensures the required hygiene. Without prior cleaning, germs in the dirt are not or only incompletely removed by disinfection.

Hygiene at Kusch+Co since 2006

In addition to the very training-intensive hygiene measures, materials and furniture design are another important prerequisite for optimum hygiene. Not every surface can be safely cleaned and disinfected. Since 2006, Kusch+Co, together with hygiene specialists from the clinical sector, has been working on the hygienic design of furniture that offers both comfort and aesthetics.

Intelligent solutions that make all hygiene measures noticeably easier:

- minimised gap dimensions
- adapted radii (e.g. of inner edges)
- optimised connection of individual components
- special selection of materials, surfaces and their processing
- resistance to intensive disinfectants such as O2 releasers or virucidal agents.

Fire protection and requirements for people with reduced mobility can also be taken into account.

However, regular cleaning and disinfection is also essential for hygiene-optimised furniture.



You can find out more about our expertise in the areas of hygiene and fire prevention in our topic brochures.



¡Hola! seating with Scorpii table - AZ Groeninge, Kortrijk, Belgium.



Volpino seating with Tezo table -
Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany (Photography Anke Müllerklein).



uni_verso seating with ¡Hola! table -
Vinzenzkrankenhaus Hannover GmbH, Germany.



V-Care seating with ¡Hola! table -
Klinikum Landshut, Germany.



Lupino seating with MeeThink table -
Diana Klinik, Bad Bevensen, Germany.



Arn seating and table -
Residential care home Huize Sint-Jozef V.Z.W., Ypern, Belgium.



Arn seating and table -
Residential care home De Gerda, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium.

