

FAQS: Bleach Cleanable & Antimicrobial Fabrics

BLEACH CLEANABLE

What does bleach cleanable mean?

A fabric that is bleach cleanable can be wiped or spot cleaned with KnollTextiles' recommended combination of household bleach and water, without weakening the fabric's fibers/materials or altering the fabric's texture or color. Cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing are often used synonymously, but they are not the same thing. Cleaning removes the visible foreign matter from a surface. Disinfecting, when done according to the instructions of a suitable cleaner, kills all bacteria and viruses present, while sanitizing reduces the level of bacteria and viruses present. Bleach cleanable woven fabrics may be sanitized and bleach cleanable coated fabrics may be disinfected. Please refer to [CDC recommendations](#) on disinfecting for more information and the details below on how to properly clean KnollTextiles fabrics with bleach.

Bleach cleanable fabrics are identified by 2 cleaning codes:

- **W-Bleach:** Water-based or foam cleaning agents or diluted household bleach may be used for cleaning this fabric.
- **W-S Bleach:** Clean with water or solvent-based cleaning agents or diluted household bleach.

Does KnollTextiles offer bleach cleanable products?

Yes. KnollTextiles offers a large selection of coated and woven bleach cleanable products, and these can be found by using the Advanced Search feature at knolltextiles.com or by referring to the Bleach Cleanable Fabric Specifications [document](#).

What is the proper way to clean with bleach?

STEP 1

Identify the recommended bleach:water cleaning ratio: A solution of 1 part household bleach to 4 or 10 parts water is recommended for cleaning KnollTextiles' bleach cleanable fabrics. To find the recommended bleach:water ratio for a specific fabric, please refer to our Bleach Cleanable Fabric Specifications [document](#).

STEP 2

Pre-Cleaning: Use a detergent or general-purpose cleaner to first remove soil, organic matter and any germs from the surface of the fabric.

STEP 3

Applying for Disinfection/Sanitization: Appropriate bleach solution may be used for wiping down or spot cleaning the fabric. No disinfectant can kill a microbe or virus immediately upon contact. It is important to follow all the instructions per the cleaning agent's label, including those for dwell time.

STEP 4

Wiping Off: The bleach solution must be wiped off the product with clean water and a clean cloth in order to prevent fading or damage to the fibers or materials.

Note: KnollTextiles recommends consulting with a professional cleaner for stubborn stains or when otherwise necessary.

Can an aftermarket finish be added to make a fabric bleach cleanable?

No. Bleach cleanable properties are inherent in the yarns or materials used in the fabric.

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FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

ANTIMICROBIAL

What does antimicrobial mean?

A fabric that is antimicrobial has the ability to kill microorganisms or inhibit their growth. Antimicrobial properties protect the fabric from the growth of certain microorganisms that would deteriorate its appearance or performance and are not intended to protect humans from the spread of infectious diseases.

Does KnollTextiles offer antimicrobial fabrics?

Yes. KnollTextiles offers a wide range of antimicrobial fabrics, which fall into the following categories:

- **Stocked as inherently antimicrobial:** Fabric has antimicrobial properties as part of its chemistry, infused into its fibers
- **Stocked with an added antimicrobial finish:** Fabric has a topical antimicrobial finish applied by the mill and is sold with the finish already stocked
- **Aftermarket antimicrobial finish:** Fabric may be approved for an added topical antimicrobial finish, based on evaluation by the KnollTextiles Technical team

Another consideration is to specify textiles made from wool. Woolen fibers have inherent antimicrobial properties that make its surface less attractive for bacteria, mold and mildew. Some other materials are less prone to microbial growth on their surface are polyester and polypropylene.

It is important to be aware of the specific features and benefits of the antimicrobial fabric or finish you are selecting, as different treatments are formulated to kill specific microorganisms. KnollTextiles antimicrobial fabrics can be found by using the Advanced Search feature at [knolltextiles.com](https://www.knolltextiles.com). Additionally, a list of fabrics and their details can be found on the Antimicrobial Fabrics [document](#).

What aftermarket antimicrobial finishes are available through KnollTextiles?

The following aftermarket finishes are currently available:

ALTA Antimicrobial

Protects against mold, mildew, bacterial and fungal growth. In trials, the finish has offered protection for up to 75 washes.

Crypton INCASE

Protects against bacteria using antimicrobial Silver Ion Technology. In trials, the finish has offered protection for up to 25+ washes.

TSG Defend+

Protects against mold, mildew, fungi and bacteria. In trials, the finish has offered protection for up to 50+ washes, though actual results may vary depending on the specific textile. This finish is partially derived from a renewable natural resource (crab shells).

To learn which fabrics can be treated with a Stain Repellent + Antimicrobial Finish and Moisture Barrier + Antimicrobial Finish, please use the Advanced Search at [knolltextiles.com](https://www.knolltextiles.com). Please contact your Sales Representative and Customer Service Representative for more information and pricing.

For additional information,
please contact Customer Service at
textiles_orders@knoll.com or 866.565.5858.
[knolltextiles.com](https://www.knolltextiles.com)

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Will the antimicrobial finish affect the texture of a fabric?

Can a sample fabric with an applied finish be sent for review?

The application of an antimicrobial finish should not change the texture of a fabric. As for samples, some pre-tested fabrics with a finish applied may already be available for review. If not available, once a client has chosen a fabric and finish, a finish trial can be ordered. The lead time for this is two weeks, and there is no cost nor commitment to order after requesting a finish trial.

How long do antimicrobial finishes last?

If a product is inherently antimicrobial, the finish will last for the lifetime of the fabric. As for how long an antimicrobial finish may last, whether stocked or aftermarket, lengths vary.

Can an aftermarket antimicrobial finish be applied or reapplied to a fabric already installed/upholstered?

No. Once a fabric has been installed/upholstered, it is not possible for KnollTextiles to apply an aftermarket finish, whether antimicrobial or otherwise.

Note: KnollTextiles continues to test and review our products for their antimicrobial properties or ability to withstand an antimicrobial finish. Please refer to our Resources [page](#) for the most up-to-date information.