

Use of Copper ~ Key Considerations

The 2020 Coronavirus outbreak has focussed public attention on frequently-touched surfaces in healthcare and other settings.

In healthcare, it is now well-accepted that the environment plays a major role in the acquisition and spread of infection, and that copper metals are effective under typical indoor conditions.

Good hand hygiene and effective regular cleaning are the pillars of infection control.

Strategic use of effective antimicrobial materials adds a layer of protection to improve safety for public and personnel alike.

We recommend copper metals for high-risk touch-surface items, in settings with high mix of people, or where people are particularly vulnerable.

Copper Touch Surfaces can make an important contribution in the following sectors:

- health & residential care
- food & hospitality
- fitness & leisure
- mass transport
- public buildings
- schools & childcare
- cruise ships

Any industry or setting where infection is a cost, or a significant risk, can benefit from upgrading key touch surfaces to copper alloys.

Varied colour palette of copper alloys

Copper CW024A	Admiralty Brass CW706R	Aluminum Bronze CW307G	Copper Nickel CW352H
Red Brass (90/10) CW501L	Phosphor Bronze CW452K	Silicon Aluminum Bronze CW115C	Copper Nickel CW354H
Brass (85/15) CW502L	Phosphor Bronze CW453K	Silicon Bronze CW116C	Nickel Silver CW409J
Brass (80/20) CW503L	Aluminum Bronze CW303G	Silicon Bronze C65500	Nickel Silver (Coin) C76500
Cartridge Brass CW505L	Aluminum Bronze C62400	Silicon Manganese Aluminum Brass C67400	Tin Bronze CB480K
Yellow Brass CW507L	Aluminum Bronze C62500	Manganese Bronze C67500	Aluminum Bronze CB331G

... does not have to "look like copper"

We help identify the prime areas to upgrade, the right products and materials for your scheme. So you gain maximum benefit, without aesthetic or functional compromise, for optimum return on investment.

ACT Surfaces Ltd are pleased to endorse the products of, and commitment to best practice by, Brass Age Ltd in the manufacture of their Vetobac® branded products.

Please see their assurance statement overleaf for details.

Contact us to discover more!

We aim to encourage - without sales pressure - a straightforward and open discussion of the research, practical considerations for implementation, product availability and new product development

Assurance statement: antimicrobial efficacy of Vetobac® branded hardware

Brass Age Ltd hereby assures ACT Surfaces Ltd and all customers that all their Vetobac® branded products are made from solid or “massive” copper alloys which are included within or equivalent to the US EPA list of registered Antimicrobial Copper alloys; similarly that no foils or coatings are used.

The EPA-registered copper alloys, in common with most other copper alloys, possess many desirable properties for engineering, durability, sustainability, or aesthetic purposes.

Independent research has proven these alloys to also have inherent, effective, rapid and durable antimicrobial properties for touch-surface usage, even under typical indoor (dry) conditions.

An overview of the published research into the efficacy, ‘contact kill’ modes and benefits of copper alloys for touch surface products can be found at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26163568/>

Key facts to note:

- These alloys rapidly kill microbes on contact, between routine cleanings and “touches”
- The antimicrobial efficacy of these alloys does not diminish over time, if properly maintained
- After rigorous testing researchers around the world, the touch-surface benefits of these alloys have been recognised by regulatory bodies and healthcare quality assessors in several countries
- Use of these alloys is a supplement to, not a substitute for, cleaning and disinfection
- These alloys must be cleaned regularly in use, like other touch surfaces
- Copper alloys are compatible with many standard cleaning products
- Copper alloy products should be recycled at end of product life: copper products can be recycled, again and again, without any loss of performance, helping to conserve our planet’s resources

Brass Age Ltd assures that their manufacturing and finishing processes do not inhibit the intrinsic antimicrobial properties of the copper alloys used to make their Vetobac® branded products.

These processes include: shearing, stamping and cutting, bending, welding, brazing, casting, abrasive grinding or filing, polishing, cleaning, and packing.

Brass Age Ltd confirm that:

- Any high-temperature oxidation generated in manufacture is removed, e.g. by acid etching
- Any process chemicals, additives, and other products, whether applied by the material producer, or by **Brass Age Ltd** during component manufacture, are removed by suitable cleaning procedures
- No lacquer, wax or any other coating is applied to the material surface
- The copper alloys used to make **Vetobac®** branded products may tarnish over time or on exposure to certain disinfectants, to a varying degree, but this does not impair their antimicrobial efficacy. If desired, they can easily be restored to “bright” condition using simple, quick and safe cleaning materials and methods

Please note this information is intended for UK customers.

There may be a difference in the claims permitted within other world regions.

Customers in the US in particular should note the EPA registration of copper alloys and see www.antimicrobialcopper.org for further information.

Signed



Dated: 09/10/2020

***Stephen Hynd, Technical Director, authorised signatory for and on behalf of:
Brass Age Ltd, trading as BA Systems, 22 Bidwell Road, Rackheath, Norwich, Norfolk NR13 6PT***