



PR770 issued: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009

## Squeaky Clean

A copper mouse could help to reduce the spread of germs at home, in schools and in the workplace according to metallurgist Mark Tur, who has just taken delivery of the first prototype.

“80% of infections are spread by touch, and it is well documented that germs can live on hard surfaces for hours, days and even months,” explains Mark.

The copper mouse is made from the same copper-composite material as the toilet seats installed in the Selly Oak Hospital clinical trial, which demonstrated a 90-100% reduction in germs compared to a standard plastic toilet seat on a busy medical ward.

Mark is delighted with the new mouse, saying: “Infection control nurses recently voted keyboards one of the top three contaminated surfaces, and these have certainly been reported to harbour nasty bugs like E. coli, Staphylococcus aureus and Norovirus. It stands to reason that computer mice will be heavily contaminated, too. Just think of how many things you touch before you use your PC, and imagine what might be on your fingers. While scrupulous hand hygiene could help to reduce the contamination put on these surfaces in the first place and kill germs picked up from them, in reality this just isn’t going to happen. Copper can help by working away in the background, killing germs 24/7.”

Manufacturers have been busy developing hygienic products made from copper (brass and bronze contain copper, too) to help hospitals tackle infections, and this mouse is one of the most recent. Copper is a broad spectrum antimicrobial, which means that bacteria, viruses and fungi simply cannot survive on it under normal office conditions.

With the threat of Swine Flu and community MRSA, hygiene in the home, schools and the workplace cannot be ignored.

A copper mouse could provide the ultimate virus protection for your PC.



Prototype 'copper mouse'

**Note for editors:**

Copper Development Association (CDA) is a non-profit making trade association which aims to develop, promote and support the correct and efficient use of copper and copper alloys through the provision of information, technical support and training. CDA does not sell or endorse products.

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