



PR788 issued: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010

## Antimicrobial Copper Technology Showcased

New Antimicrobial Copper product ranges are to be launched at major forthcoming events in the infection prevention calendar. Companies are adopting the brand and can now offer products stamped with the Cu+ mark, which signifies that they are capable of continuously killing the pathogenic microbes that cause healthcare-associated infections. Alongside these new ranges, Copper Development Association will be showcasing the technology and science behind the products.

Architects, designers, facility managers and hospital administrators at Infection Prevention 2010, IHEEM, and this year's International Conference of the Hospital Infection Society will be able to see first hand how one of the world's oldest metals can be effective against the microbes that thrive on touch surfaces and cause hospital-acquired infections.

St. Francis Hospital made headlines back in January as the first hospital to specify copper door furniture throughout in a bid to control healthcare acquired infections, and since then many other facilities have followed suit, including a prominent Cystic Fibrosis centre at Sheffield's Northern General Hospital and a fever clinic in the Greater Tokyo Area in Japan that has clad walls in a copper alloy to help fight infection with the added advantage of a strikingly beautiful aesthetic.

Such projects build upon the laboratory work conducted by Professor Keevil at the University of Southampton, and the compelling results obtained in a clinical trial at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham, in which frequently touched surfaces were replaced with Antimicrobial Copper items. The outcome was 90-100% less contamination on the copper surfaces than on non-copper equivalents, results echoed by recent Department of Defense-funded trials in the United States. Significantly, in these trials, no *C. difficile* or MRSA bacteria were found on any of the copper surfaces.

AS Hardware is one of the companies who will be on the CDA stand to answer commercial questions, and will be showing off their range of Antimicrobial Copper door furniture and accessories.

"Infection control is a big issue in the UK, and something as simple as a copper door handle could help to reduce infection rates," notes James Pritchard, Sales Manager for ASH. "This

is a product that works 24/7. It's not going to fail. Unlike an applied finish, it is always working.”

For more information, visit [www.antimicrobialcopper.com/uk](http://www.antimicrobialcopper.com/uk).

	
Antimicrobial Copper-branded dressings trolley by Cuivrinox	Close-up of Cu+ mark on Cuivrinox dressings trolley

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