ORs cleaning and disinfecting overview

A disinfecting and cleaning program for an OR or other sterile area requires close work with many parties. These policies, procedures, schedules, training, disinfecting and cleaning regimes must be developed and in place prior to the OR opening.

These policies should meet the institution’s needs, conform to CDC and AORN recommendations and all disinfectant and cleaning chemicals are deemed appropriate for the surfaces (floor, wall or other) installed.

A very general disinfecting program could look like this;

General disinfecting using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered disinfectant to remove visible dust, dirt, and debris from floors and walls.

Between case disinfecting using an EPA-registered disinfectant for patient-contact surfaces and for appropriate removal of visible potentially infectious materials (blood and body secretions and splashed irrigating solutions containing these materials).

Terminal or end-of-day disinfecting cleaning of surfaces and equipment with a disinfectant registered with the EPA.

After the disinfecting process, the floors and walls must be cleaned and rinsed well to remove any residues of harmful chemicals, disinfectants, or other potentially damaging residues and substances. This may be on less than a daily schedule however, it must be frequent enough to prevent damage to the floor and wall surfaces from disinfectants and other chemicals.

Make sure the floors and walls have been effectively disinfected per previously mentioned policy and procedures developed by infection control, housekeeping, and disinfectant supplier.

Put on clean disposable gloves prior to cleaning; utilize personal protective equipment as outlined in the facilities policies and procedures for cleaning and disinfecting.

Follow regular maintenance instructions provided on the next page.
# Wall maintenance

## Initial cleaning

Once all panels and joints are installed, remove the protective film and clean all surfaces down with an anti-static solution or anti-static wipes. This is required as the panel may have static build up and any dust in the atmosphere will adhere to the surface of the panel.

## Regular cleaning

- Altro Whiterock can be cleaned with a diluted soap/detergent solution, such as PVC wall cleaner (for stubborn stains) or AltroClean 44 (degreaser).
- Use a lint-free, non-woven wipe or a polyester knit wipe. Both are extremely low in particle generation.
- When cleaning Altro Whiterock’s surface, we recommend the temperature of water does not exceed 140°F (60°C).
- Pressure cleaning with hot water may be used with the pressure nozzle, a minimum of 2 feet (600mm) away from the surface.
- To reduce the buildup of static, regularly cleaning the panels with an anti-static solution or anti-static wipes is recommended.
- Some cleaning agents may adversely affect Altro Whiterock. See the full chemical resistance chart on our website altro.com/downloads.
- Do not use materials containing abrasives or solvents.

## Recommended cleaners/disinfectants for Altro Whiterock

To meet demanding regulatory requirements, a well-planned program to disinfect a variety of surfaces in order to maintain microbial control is critical.

We have conducted extensive testing on some on the most commonly used cleaners and disinfectants provided by **Steris Corporation.**

- PVC wall cleaner (Altro)
- AltroClean 44
- **Spor-Klenz®
- **Vesphene® Ilse
- **LpH® se
- **CIP 200®

Samples were tested with these Steris cleaners at various dilution rates with water. The drying process of these chemicals typically takes 10 minutes, however, in these tests, the sample exposure was obtained by full immersion in the chemical for seven days. These extreme measures were taken to represent a worst case scenario. In all scenarios, with all chemicals, Altro Whiterock performed extremely well.

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# Floor maintenance

## Initial maintenance

1. Do not begin any maintenance procedure for at least 72 hours after installation.
2. Sweep or vacuum floor surface to remove all loose dust and debris.
3. Apply diluted* AltroClean 44™ to the floor. Allow to sit for five minutes to allow the cleaner to attack the surface soil.
4. Scrub floor with an automatic scrubber (3 in 1 machine) or a standard low speed swing machine (150rpm to 350rpm) fitted with an Altro Unipad™.
5. If using a standard low-speed swing machine, remove wash water with a wet vac. Ensure the floor is thoroughly rinsed with fresh, clean water. No cleaning residue should remain on the floor.
6. Allow surface to dry before use.

## Regular mechanical maintenance

1. Sweep and/or vacuum floor surface to remove all loose dust and debris.
2. Apply diluted* AltroClean 44™ to the floor. Allow to sit for five minutes to allow the cleaner to attack the surface soil.
3. Scrub floor with an automatic scrubber (3 in 1 machine) or a standard low speed swing machine (150rpm to 350rpm) fitted with an Altro Unipad™.
4. If using a standard low-speed swing machine, remove wash water with a wet vac.
5. Ensure the floor is thoroughly rinsed with fresh, clean water. No cleaning residue should remain on the floor.
6. Allow surface to dry before use.

* Dilution rates depend on the condition of the floor. For moderate soiling use a 1:40 dilution ratio. For heavy soiling use 1:10.

Laminated illustrated cleaning cards are also available in English, French and Spanish languages.