



## **Mops spread hospital germs, so switch to microfiber**

According to Dr. Charles Gerba, famed microbiologist with the University of Arizona, in some cases "it may be better not to clean a surface than to clean it with soiled cleaning tools... [because] it can spread microorganisms around without your realizing it."

Gerba says, "some cleaning tools, such as sponges and mops actually become micropile compost heaps. In many cases, [the cleaning worker] is just laying down a thin layer of E. coli over the surface as they clean."

What Gerba doesn't mention is a new protocol with microfiber mop heads that addresses this concern. In fact, it is reducing cross-contamination in hospitals.

When Memphis Chemical & Janitorial Supply talked to Methodist Healthcare about its infection control goals, we recommended eliminating traditional mops. By replacing traditional mops and buckets with microfiber mopping systems, each room's floor is cleaned with a microfiber mop head. When the room is finished being cleaned the user removes the mop head and puts on a new mop head for the next room. The used mop heads are sanitized for reuse.

"The microfiber mopping system is one of several great ideas we've gotten from Memphis Chemical & Janitorial Supply," said Cedric Bryson, Environmental Services Director for Methodist Healthcare. "We've helped reduce the risk of cross contamination, and the microfiber mop heads clean better than traditional ones. Also they weigh much less, so they are easier to use and we have fewer employee complaints."

Using microfiber mop heads also dramatically cuts water usage. A 2002 study from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Using Microfiber Mops in Hospitals," found that at UC Davis Medical Center, the staff used 105 gallons of water to clean 100 rooms using cotton mops. With microfiber mops, they only used 5 gallons per 100 rooms.

If infection control is high on your list of priorities, contact us at 901-521-1612 or toll-free at 800-561-1612. To receive green cleaning tips and other useful information, sign up at [www.memchemical.com](http://www.memchemical.com).