

Endurocide® Disposable Antimicrobial Curtains: Care and Maintenance Guide

Introduction

Endurocide® Disposable Antimicrobial Curtains are a critical component in maintaining a hygienic healthcare environment. These curtains, made from 100% polypropylene, are designed to be a disposable, single-use product that actively helps in infection control. This guide provides comprehensive instructions for the proper care and maintenance of these specialized curtains to ensure their effectiveness and longevity.

Product Overview

Endurocide® curtains are engineered with a patented formula that provides a long-lasting and powerful barrier against pathogens. The Antimicrobial Plus version has been proven to remain active for up to two years, offering significant protection against a wide range of microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi, mycobacteria, spores, and viruses. A key feature of these curtains is that they are free of silver additives, relying on a unique technology to trap and kill pathogens on the curtain's surface, thereby breaking the chain of infection.

Key Features and Benefits

Feature	Benefit
Pathogen Elimination	Kills the top five pathogen groups commonly found in hospital environments.
Infection Control	Traps and kills pathogens on the curtain surface, reducing the risk of cross-contamination.
Self-Sterilizing	Features active sporicide, biocide, and fungicide that disables pathogens, allowing curtains to remain in place between infectious patients.
Ease of Use	Lightweight, flexible, and compatible with existing hospital tracking systems.
Cost-Effectiveness	Reduces the frequency of curtain changes by up to 50%, leading to significant cost and time savings.
No Laundering	Eliminates the need for laundering, further reducing costs and logistical burdens.
Recyclability	Made from 100% recyclable polypropylene, supporting environmental sustainability.

Care and Maintenance Instructions

To ensure the optimal performance and safety of Endurocide® Disposable Antimicrobial Curtains, it is imperative to adhere to the following care and maintenance guidelines.

Cleaning

Under no circumstances should Endurocide® Disposable Curtains be cleaned, washed, or wiped. These curtains are specifically designed to be disposable. Any attempt to clean them can compromise their structural integrity, leading to pilling, and may negatively affect their fire retardancy and antimicrobial properties. If a curtain becomes visibly soiled, it must be replaced immediately.

For minor soiling such as tiny blood spots, q-tips and bleach or sterile wipes may be used on the affected area. However, this approach will remove both the fire retardant and sporicidal properties from that section, so this should only be considered for very minor spots. For significant soiling, splatter, or damage, the entire curtain should be replaced rather than attempting localized cleaning.

Hydrogen Peroxide Steam Cleaning

Endurocide® Curtains are supplied in plastic sleeves, which should be retained for use during hydrogen peroxide steam cleaning operations. When performing Bio Quell or hydrogen peroxide steam disinfection, curtains may remain in place. The procedure is as follows: close the curtain, pull the plastic sleeve up and over the curtains, allow the curtains to self-sterilize during the steam cleaning process, and then remove the plastic sleeves for future use. This method allows the curtains to remain installed while being disinfected.

Patient-to-Patient Transitions

Endurocide® Curtains have an active sporicide, biocide, and fungicide that disables pathogens. They self-sterilize, so are designed to remain in place between infectious patients without requiring replacement. However, if there is any uncertainty about specific protocols, staff should consult with their hospital's infection prevention and control (IPC) team.

Environmental Factors

UV Exposure

The polypropylene material offers UV resistance for approximately six months. However, prolonged and direct exposure to strong sunlight can accelerate the aging process of the material. This may result in a loss of tensile strength, reduced elasticity, and pilling. It is advisable to hang curtains away from direct sunlight whenever possible.

Ventilation

Upon initial installation, a slight odor may be noticeable, which is associated with the polypropylene material. This is normal and will dissipate quickly. Ensuring the area is

well-ventilated with circulating fresh air will help to eliminate any smell after the curtains are removed from their packaging.

Handling During Deep Cleaning

It is crucial to **remove Endurocide® curtains before any deep cleaning or disinfection processes** involving misting, fogging, or UV machines. The chemicals used in these operations, such as hydrogen peroxide, can damage the curtains and impair their fire retardancy and antimicrobial efficacy. Similarly, UV radiation can affect the integrity of the curtains and their labels.

Appearance

A shimmering or sparkling appearance on the surface of the curtains is a normal characteristic. This is due to the fire retardants used in the manufacturing process and is also observed in other similar fire-retardant fabrics.

Lifespan and Replacement

Endurocide® Curtains are designed to have a possible two-year lifespan unless they become soiled, splattered, or damaged, in which case they must be replaced immediately. The curtains feature an active sporicide, biocide, and fungicide that disables pathogens, allowing them to self-sterilize and remain in place between infectious patients.

Spare Curtains

It is recommended that healthcare facilities maintain a couple of spare curtains for emergency changeovers. Spares should be stored in a cool place in their original boxes, where they will maintain their effectiveness. If spares are not used during the initial two-year period, they can be hung during the next scheduled changeover, and fresh spares should be ordered at that time.

Trimming Front Panels

If the front panels of the curtains become soiled, they may be trimmed rather than replacing the entire curtain. For standard curtains, cut straight up the crease of the

curtain's first panel, unhook the eyelet, and discard that panel. This creates a new front panel for the curtain. For meshtop curtains, the following procedure should be followed: cut up along the fold of the first panel until reaching the mesh border, fold the mesh back over the next curtain panel, and staple the folded mesh border to the adjacent panel.

Storage and Disposal

Storage

Endurocide® Hospital Curtains should be stored at ambient temperatures, not exceeding 25°C. They must be kept out of direct, strong sunlight and away from UV light sources. It is recommended to hang the curtains within 12 months of their purchase date to ensure optimal performance. Spare curtains should be stored in boxes in a cool place to maintain their effectiveness.

Disposal

As the curtains are made from 100% recyclable polypropylene, they can be disposed of through designated hazardous waste collection points or via incineration. It is essential to always adhere to hospital-specific protocols and local regulations concerning the safe disposal of clinical waste.

Disclaimer

Cost savings may vary based on facility size, usage patterns, and current laundering costs. The benefits and performance characteristics described in this guide are based on the manufacturer's specifications and independent laboratory testing. Healthcare facilities should evaluate these curtains based on their specific operational requirements and infection control protocols.