

# What's New Newsletter?



There may be other cleaning shows, but only ISSA / INTERCLEAN® brings distributor and facility service provider customers from all segments of the industry under one roof just for you! More than 650 exhibitors will participate in the event!

## ISSA / INTERCLEAN® Las Vegas 2005

October 18-21, 2005

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV  
(Exhibit days: October 19-21, 2005)

## CitruSan Disinfectant Fogger



CITRUSAN TOTAL RELEASE FOGGER is an EPA registered disinfectant, antimicrobial agent and two-way deodorizer for use on pre-cleaned hard, nonporous surfaces including toilets, urinals, bathtubs, shower stalls, seats, benches, lockers, partitions, counters, fixtures, knobs, handles, railings, telephones, furniture, equipment and other surfaces which could harbor hazardous microorganisms. For use in industrial, institutional, commercial, medical and residential facilities, equipment and vehicles including hospitals, ambulances, nursing homes, medical and dental offices and clinics; veterinary offices and animal areas; schools; laboratories; hotels and motels; restaurants and cafeterias; food storage, processing, packaging, handling and serving establishments and equipment; offices; stores; factories and manufacturing plants; and apartment buildings and homes. Bactericidal, virucidal, sanitizes fabric and leather shoes, mats and equipment, fungicidal, controls microorganisms that create foul putrefactive odors. One can treats 6,000 cubic feet of unobstructed space.

## New Myers Catalog



The new Myers Supply & Chemical catalog is now available. The new catalog has over 100 pages of new products, chemicals, equipment, paper products, plastics, mats, brushes & much more.

Ask your sales person for the new catalog or download a copy at [www.MyersSupply.com](http://www.MyersSupply.com). Our complete product systems allow unparalleled single source purchasing for the finest cleaning products.

## Myers Supply

900 Arch St. Little Rock, AR 72202  
501-372-6677  
831 Third St. Hot Springs, AR 71913  
501-623-7742  
[WWW.MyersSupply.com](http://WWW.MyersSupply.com)

Newsletter Date 09/04/05 , Issue 11

## Radius™ 24



### Battery Powered

Cordless operation provides freedom of movement. Go anywhere quickly! No cord makes for safer operation, especially around customers. Built-in charger enables users to charge the machine quickly and easily. Sweep carpet or hard floor with the convenience of battery power.

### Quiet Operation

An ultra-low noise level (55 dBA) won't disturb customers. Can be operated wherever and whenever the job needs to be done.

### Easy to Operate

The intuitive control panel display is simple and easy to use. Lightweight, removable hopper lifts out for easy emptying.

## Myers Chemical & Supplies

Get more product info at: [www.MyersSupply.com](http://www.MyersSupply.com)

[MyersSupply.com](http://MyersSupply.com)

## Unger Unveils Microfiber Grading System

Unger Enterprises Inc., Bridgeport, Conn., has announced the introduction of its patent-pending Microfiber Grading System, a method of classifying various qualities of microfiber according to usage specifications. An approach founded on the technology of Unger's SmartColor MicroWipes, the Microfiber Grading System rates the integrity, quality construction and longevity of the cloth based on four primary factors: durability, scrub factor, absorbency and wash cycles.



The Microfiber Grading System aids the process of microfiber purchase and selection by offering customers guidelines intended to maximize cleaning investment and enhance sanitation.

"We are the first manufacturer to conduct extensive research to determine appropriate application specifications for varying grades of Microfiber," said Bruno Niklaus, vice president of global marketing, Unger Enterprises. "Selecting a grade of microfiber can often be confusing. Now customers can be confident they aren't over-investing in high grade microfiber for light-duty cleaning environments, or under-purchasing for heavily soiled applications."

Unger's new grading system is based on performance criteria measured and validated by ASTM International (originally American Society for Testing and Materials) standards. Usage studies have established that cleaning frequencies, soil types and other facility management variables require matching the right grade of cloth to the conditions of the cleaning task to achieve the most efficient level of cleanliness.



"The textile industry has a long history of using grading systems to define characteristics and determine correct uses for certain fibers such as wool or even carpet," said Dave Frank of Colorado-based KnowledgeWorx. "To apply this practice to microfiber is a logical next step and Unger is well-poised to be the first to do so."

To better meet the needs of cleaning professionals, Unger now offers its SmartColor MicroWipes in three grades: MicroWipe 4000 for heavy duty cleaning, MicroWipe 2000 for medium duty cleaning and MicroWipe 500 for light cleaning. Each microfiber cloth is 16 inches square and has double-stitched edges to withstand multiple washings and repeated cleaning applications.

"The range of cleaning tasks for which microfiber can be used is dictated by qualities such as fiber thickness, length, finishing abrasiveness, absorbency, cloth dimension, edging and the manufacturing quality," Niklaus said. "The Microfiber Grading System is a guide to purchasing the right microfiber for the job. For example, SmartColor MicroWipe 4000 Heavy Duty and SmartColor MicroWipe 2000 Medium Duty are well-suited to the health care, food service and manufacturing industries where bacteria and heavy soil loads are pervasive. The SmartColor MicroWipe 500 Light Duty is ideal for educational and office environments."

Unger MicroWipes absorb more than seven times their weight in water, lower bacteria levels by 96 percent and require the use of fewer chemicals and disposable products. When used dry, MicroWipes collect dust through their static charge. All grades of Unger MicroWipes are color coded as part of Unger's SmartColor Cleaning System.

"Not all cloths are equal in quality and strength," Niklaus added. "The Microfiber Grading System is the first microfiber classification method that provides customers with a guideline for determining which microfiber tools to choose. Every Unger cloth has a grading label indicating the specifications for that particular grade. The system helps optimize return on investment by guiding the purchase of the best tools for every cleaning need."

## FAST FOG - Total Release Fogger

FAST FOG is an EPA registered, water based total release fogger. This product contains permethrin, pyrethrin and MGK 264®. Its total release action provides trouble free, one step killing action. It is effective for killing cockroaches, crickets, fleas, flies, rice weevils, saw-toothed grain beetles, small flying moths and ticks. Can be used in rooms, apartments, homes, attics, basements, campers, boats, household storage areas, garages, pet sleeping areas and cabins. The fogging mist penetrates to all areas for thorough insecticidal action. One can of 437 effectively treats up to 9,000 cubic feet and one can of 438 effectively treats up to 6,000 cubic feet.

## 'Super' bacteria live on sheets, fingernails: study

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The mutated, drug-resistant "superbugs" that cause an increasing number of hospital infections and deaths can live for weeks on bed linens, computer keyboard covers and under acrylic fingernails, U.S. researchers reported on Monday.

The study supports other research that shows super-strict hygiene is needed to battle the bacteria, some of which are now nearly impossible to kill even with the strongest antibiotics.

A team at sanitation-services company Ecolab Inc. dabbed methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* onto samples of bed linen, keyboard covers and acrylic fingernails.

MRSA could be detected eight weeks later on acrylic fingernails, six weeks later on computer keyboard covers and five days later on bed linens, the researchers told a meeting in Atlanta of the American Society for Microbiology.

"The results of this study clearly demonstrate the need for frequent hand washing and environmental disinfection in health care settings," said researcher Kris Owens of Mendota Heights, Minnesota-based Ecolab.

*Staphylococcus aureus* is usually harmless and very common, found on skin or in the noses of about 30 percent of people. It can cause stubborn problems such as rashes and boils and an infection is often mistaken for a spider bite.

In hospitals, MRSA can cause serious and sometimes deadly infections, including necrotizing fasciitis or "flesh-eating" disease. It resists almost everything but an intravenous antibiotic called vancomycin.

A study at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, published in April, found that computer keyboards can contaminate the fingers, bare or gloved, of a nurse or doctor, who could then transfer bacteria to patients.

## Treating Shower Mold

Sometimes, despite our best intentions, we still get ugly mold in the shower.

If needed, treat mold with a mildew remover. The best way to do this is to spray the mold and let the cleaner work for a while. Use these products in a well-ventilated area. Because these cleaners contain bleach, you have to be careful not to mix cleaners, and you don't want to get it on the metal finishes. It will pit them.



Let it sit for about 10 minutes. Scrub with a scrubby sponge or a scrub brush. Spray again and let it work. Shower curtains can also be treated with mildew remover. Spray it down and leave it to work. Or they can be washed with bleach and an old towel in the washing machine. If it is in good condition to begin with, it will come out looking like new.

You will find shower cleaning is a lot easier if you use a shower squeegee, or wipe the walls down with a towel when you get out of the shower.



Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## CDC Chemical Exposure Report

CDC releases the most extensive assessment ever made of the exposure of the U.S. population to chemicals in our environment.

The National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals provides an ongoing assessment of the U.S. population's exposure to environmental chemicals using biomonitoring. Biomonitoring is the assessment of human exposure to chemicals by measuring the chemicals or their metabolites in human specimens such as blood or urine.

Get the full report at: <http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport>



## What's Causing Cancer?

Cancer in Canada is now projected to afflict one in every 2.2 men and one in every 2.6 women in their lifetime. In the 1930s, those numbers were less than one in 10. What's happening? Why are we now seeing what many are calling a "cancer epidemic"?

In Canada, hundreds of millions of dollars are raised and spent for cancer research and treatment. The elephant in the room, however, is the contribution of environmental toxins and whether many of the cancers striking Canadians can be avoided rather than simply managed.

The World Health Organization estimates that fully 25 per cent of cancers worldwide are caused by occupational and environmental factors other than smoking. You don't have to look far for some potential chemical culprits.

There are more than 85,000 chemicals that are currently licensed for use in North America. Less than half have ever been tested for human health risk and even fewer for potential environmental impacts.

The U.S. Centers For Disease Control recently turned their attention toward pollution detection — not in the environment, but within the human body. Their study in 2002 found the presence of 81 different toxic chemicals, including PCBs, benzene and other carcinogens in their sampling of 2,500 people tested.

It is somewhat of a no-brainer that reducing exposure to known carcinogens will reduce the risk of developing cancer. Surprisingly, this simple logic seems to have been lost on our federal government. Many chemicals that are scientifically demonstrated carcinogens or otherwise toxic are freely used here without any legal obligation to identify them on the label. Some of these same chemicals are entirely banned elsewhere.

A trip to your local supermarket reveals a small sample of these hidden poisons:

Mothballs contain either naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene, both of which are carcinogenic. A recent U.S. study linked mothball use to an increased incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Polycarbonate plastics used in food-grade plastic containers such as water bottles can leach Bisphenol A, an estrogen-mimicking chemical linked to a variety of disorders, including hormone-related birth defects, learning disabilities, prostate cancer and neuro-degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease.

Several leading perfumes, nail polishes and other cosmetic products sold in Canada contain the endocrine-disrupting phthalates DBP and DEHP — both banned for use in cosmetic products in European Union countries.

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers or PBDEs are common chemical fire retardants found in everything from foam mattresses to computer parts. They have similar properties to the now outlawed PCBs and are known neurotoxins and hormone disrupters. The most dangerous forms are now banned in the EU, though they remain legal in Canada.

Many leading brands of household laundry detergent contain trisodium nitrilotriacetate, another suspected carcinogen as well as an environmental pollutant.

Chemicals that endanger human life also go down the drain and impact the environment. A gruesome example involved a dead orca that washed up south of Vancouver in 2000 that was so contaminated with persistent chemicals that Ottawa considered shipping the carcass to the Swan Hills toxic waste facility for incineration.

Like orcas, we are perched at the top of the food chain and are becoming the unwitting receptacles of many of the chemicals designed to make our lives more convenient.

Ballooning cancer rates are simply not worth whiter clothes or fewer moths.

Cancer must be fought on many fronts. Research and treatment are undeniably important but so is environmental cancer prevention. It is therefore shocking that our government is not moving faster to ban known and suspected carcinogens, and requiring mandatory "right to know" labeling so that we can better protect themselves and their families.

Anything less is quite simply putting the interests of the chemical industry ahead of human life.

## Quadra Measures Up To The EPA

We are pleased to announce a forthcoming partnership between the US EPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics and MYERS CHEMICAL to address the issues of pollution and worker safety associated with the use of institutional laundry compounds.

The EPA is very concerned about the environmental pollution caused by laundry detergents and other laundry products. Specifically targeted for replacement are caustic based products, chlorine bleaches, sours, certain softeners, high levels of inorganic phosphates, and ingredients which are not readily biodegradable.



By EPA estimates, 88,500,000 gallons of water are consumed daily by the institutional laundering industry. Laundry chemical systems that reduce water consumption are looked upon very favorably. Systems, which reduce the solid contamination caused by 5-gallon pail waste, are favorable as well.

The EPA additionally is interested in workersafety, products less detrimental to linens, energy and water conservation as well as pathogen reduction.

MYERS' **QUADRA** measures up to virtually all the issues concerning the US EPA. We are very pleased that our product already had addressed most of the issues on the EPA's plate, and with the help of their scientist, we plan to continue to make **QUADRA** more effective and better for the environment.

## Top 10 cleaning concerns

**Bloodborne pathogens:** Cleaning and facility managers and their employees should be aware of the potential risks of blood and human waste cleanups. The issue led the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to draft its Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

Some custodians still clean restrooms without wearing gloves or other protective equipment, and they have various methods for cleaning potentially hazardous spills instead of one approved policy.

Concern about bloodborne diseases seems to be fading in some areas, yet the risks are still too great to ignore. Managers who don't properly train their cleaning workers are open to liability. Insurance carriers and OSHA will not tolerate lax standards.

**Ergonomics:** Back injuries in the cleaning maintenance industry are common, so managers should review proper lifting methods with their workers. There are new cleaning tools and products that can minimize back strains or pulls water buckets that drain without lifting, trash containers that empty more easily, mop wringers that minimize strain when wringing a mop.

Cleaning workers increasingly suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome caused by repetitive motions. Workers' wrists, arms and elbows can suffer from the stress of repetitive use of cleaning equipment and methods.

An effective preventive program depends on using ergonomically designed tools and equipment, and providing proper training in their use.

**Hazardous equipment:** As the pressure increases to do more cleaning with fewer workers, more efficient equipment must be used. Self-propelled automatic scrubbers and propane-powered floor-care equipment, for example, can slash labor needs.

But the technology may carry with it some adverse effects from use of equipment powered by propane, battery or some other fuel. Storage and operation safety must be addressed. The goal is to save time and labor, but it's important not to ignore potential dangers to operators and the public.

**Specialty cleaning:** There are two theories on specialty cleaning. One is that every cleaning operator should be a generalist because customers don't want to contract out specialty cleaning work. The other contends that operators should avoid being generalists and emphasize a cleaning specialty to attract clients and improve their expertise.

## Top 10 cleaning concerns (continued)

Managers will pay more attention to areas that once were delegated to higher priced specialty companies. Economics don't allow for exorbitant profits on specialty cleaning items. The client will eventually find a cleaning service that performs quality specialty work at reasonable prices.

**Professionalism:** The cleaning maintenance industry has made strides in promoting a professional image. As the wage gap widens between the unskilled worker and the trained custodian, customers will expect a professional cleaning technician to service their buildings. Cleaning workers will have to be neat and clean, be expert at their job and be able to interact professionally with customers, occupants and the public.

The cost of carrying out cleaning services has traditionally taken precedence to worker demeanor, appearance and training for customers and facility owners. But a competitive cleaning industry requires workers to be skilled, courteous and personable. Managers will have to take into consideration these desired worker characteristics when interviewing potential employees.

**Lead paint:** Old lead paint poses health and litigious hazards to humans. Cleaning workers don't have to be lead paint removal specialists, but their managers should determine lead hazards that may exist in the cleaning workplace.

Dry dusting of lead-based paint is a way to create health hazards for employees, visitors or tenants. Cleaning and facility managers must not let their workers remodel or paint over lead-paint surfaces unless proper safety procedures are implemented.

**Asbestos:** Asbestos dust is a carcinogenic hazard requiring immediate attention and notification to anyone exposed to it. Custodians working around asbestos must take every precaution to protect themselves while cleaning. The building owner or manager must take steps to protect all occupants.

**Integrated pest management:** An integrated pest management (IPM) program is designed to reduce the use of toxic sprays and chemicals yet maintain an effective pest control operation.

Cleaning workers should be a vital part of any IPM program because they're often asked to eliminate the pest problem. They're often told by their managers to monitor potential infestations and to apply the chemicals to eradicate pests.

**Hazardous chemicals:** Training in the use of potentially hazardous cleaning chemicals can reduce injuries and ensure the correct product is used. There will be little tolerance for poor training or lack of training in this area over the next decade. Failure to train will increase the risk for liability.

**Sick building syndrome:** Complaints from customers and tenants about dust, odors, pests, poor ventilation, irritating cleaning chemicals, allergic reactions and faulty cleaning methods add up to what has become known as sick building syndrome.

It forces managers to become more experienced in analyzing complaints and to provide training for custodians to clean critical areas where disease or chemical reactions may spread.

Martin Escalante is director of the Custodial Services Department, San Francisco, CA, Unified School District, and Severin Rizzo is facilities services manager for the Custodial Services Department, San Francisco International Airport.

For more information on the topic of this article, please go to [www.facility-maintenance.com](http://www.facility-maintenance.com) and use the following keywords in an article search: cleaning concerns, professionalism, custodial training.

By Martin Escalante and Severin Rizzo



**Myers Chemical & Supplies**  
Get more product info at: [www.MyersSupply.com](http://www.MyersSupply.com)