



## CAN *Benefect* DISINFECTANTS BE USED ON POROUS SURFACES?

To get a clearer picture of how the EPA reviews and approves antimicrobial products for all types of claims (on both non-porous and porous surfaces) it is helpful to understand how the EPA categorizes antimicrobial products. “Antimicrobial products are divided into two categories based on the type of microbial pest against which the product works” (<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/antimic.htm>); in other words, based on the claim being made.

- **Public Health products/claims** are intended to control microorganisms infectious to humans in any inanimate environment. The more commonly used Public Health antimicrobial products include the following: Sterilizers, Disinfectants, Sanitizers and Antiseptics/Germicides
- **Non-Public Health products/claims** are used to control growth of algae, odor-causing bacteria, bacteria which cause spoilage, deterioration or fouling of materials and microorganisms infectious only to animals. This general category includes products used in cooling towers, jet fuel, paints, and treatments for textile and paper products.

### What is a Porous Surface?

A porous surface will allow air or liquid to pass through it. Examples of materials that are porous include: wood, framing, trim, drywall, plaster or carpet.

**The only EPA Public Health claim that specifically involves porous surfaces is the Carpet Sanitization claim** (there is also a Fabric & Textiles claim that applies to such material objects, that are not otherwise surfaces). This is a Public Health claim that means the approved product is effective to ‘reduce, but not necessarily eliminate, microorganisms’.

**There are no EPA approved antimicrobial products that have ‘Disinfecting’ efficacy on porous surfaces.** It is too difficult to prove efficacy on porous surfaces and therefore the EPA cannot guarantee the claim.

So then back to the original question...**Can *Benefect* Disinfectants be used on POROUS surfaces?**



Public Health EPA approved claims/products:

- **Disinfecting...NO!** There are no EPA approved disinfecting claims for porous surfaces, for ANY products.
- **Sanitizing...YES!** Decon 30 is an EPA approved Carpet Sanitizer, approved Federally and in ALL States.

Non-Public Health claims/products (not reviewed or verified by the EPA because they have no public health implications):

- **Deodorizing...YES!** Both *Benefect* and Decon 30 can be used on porous surfaces to: ‘Effectively eliminate odors produced by odor-causing bacteria, fungi & other odor-causing organisms’.

Here at *Benefect*, our first choice is Decon 30 for any type of porous surface cleaning, deodorizing or sanitizing. Decon 30 has a better ability to penetrate into porous surfaces. It has a lighter scent, and that scent will dissipate faster. Both products can be used on porous surfaces but Decon 30 is the better fit.