

**Finsa**

# Antibacterial properties

of our decorative surfaces



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# What are microorganisms?

Microorganisms are living things that cannot be seen with the naked eye.

There are microorganisms that cause disease (pathogens), but many are not harmful:



Yoghurt  
bacteria



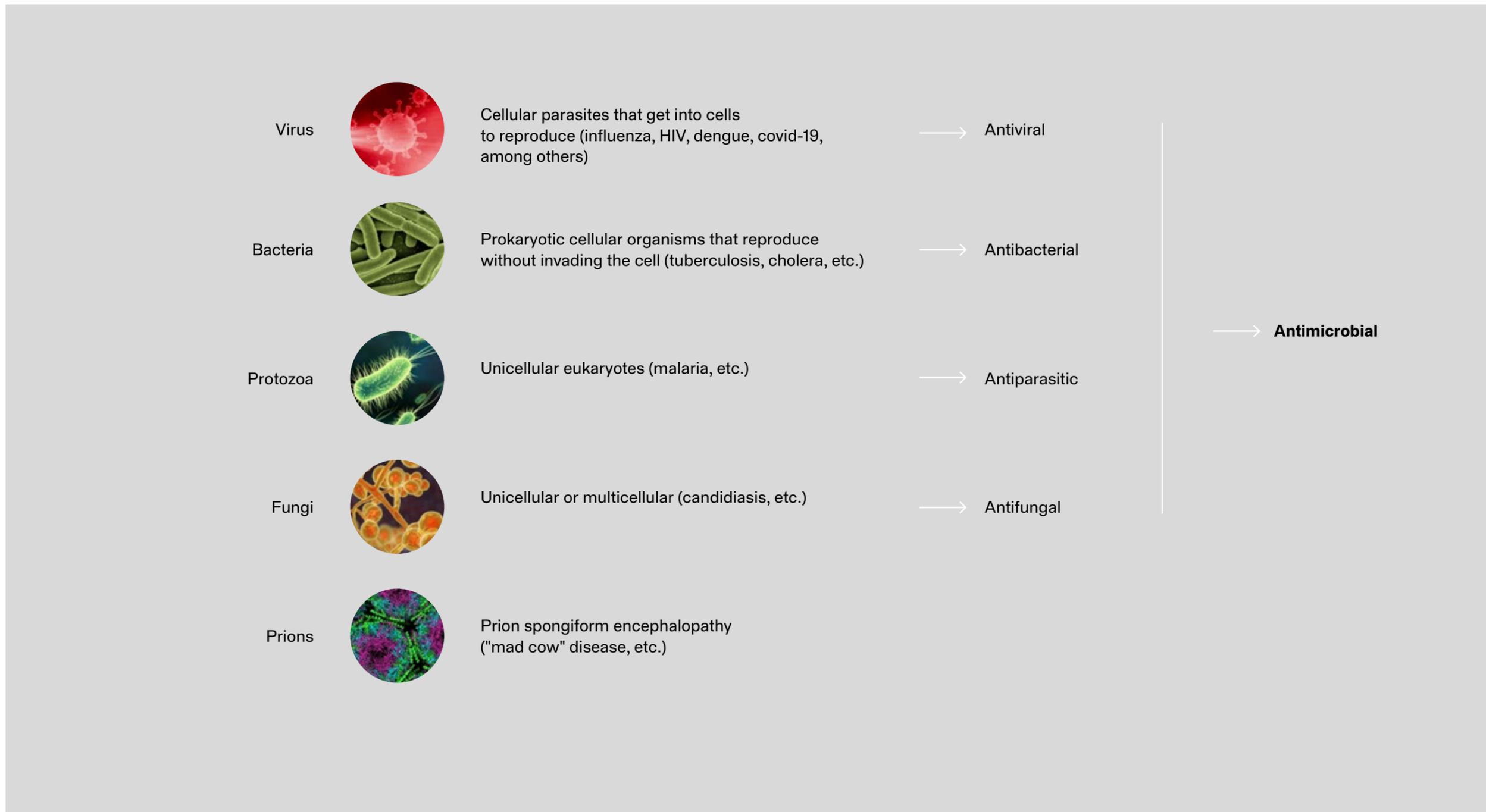
Intestinal flora  
bacteria



Soil  
bacteria

# What are pathogenic microorganisms?

These are the microorganisms that cause disease.



# Surfaces with antimicro- bial properties

Materials and surfaces can harbour microorganisms and thus be a source of cross-contamination when they come in contact with a contaminated surface.

For this reason, it is advisable to provide them with antimicrobial characteristics to create safer products from a health and hygiene perspective. Even so, it is vital to maintain a proper cleaning protocol to avoid possible infections.

What is the difference between antimicrobial and antibacterial?

An antimicrobial is effective against a broad spectrum of microorganisms. This includes bacteria, moulds, fungi and even some strains of viruses.

An antibacterial is only effective against bacteria.



# Surfaces with antibacterial properties



## Must

- Prevent bacteria from attaching to their surface (bacteriostatic effect);
- Or, if this is the case, to eliminate them (bactericidal effect).

## Therefore

- They contribute to cleaner spaces and healthier living.
- They improve the quality of the indoor environment.
- They prevent the development of infectious diseases.

In all cases, an antibacterial surface does not replace the regular cleaning practices specified by product manufacturers.

# Materials with antibacterial properties

Finsa offers the following materials with antibacterial properties:

- All our melamine surfaces have an antibacterial characteristic that includes all types of substrates and thicknesses:

According to ISO 22196

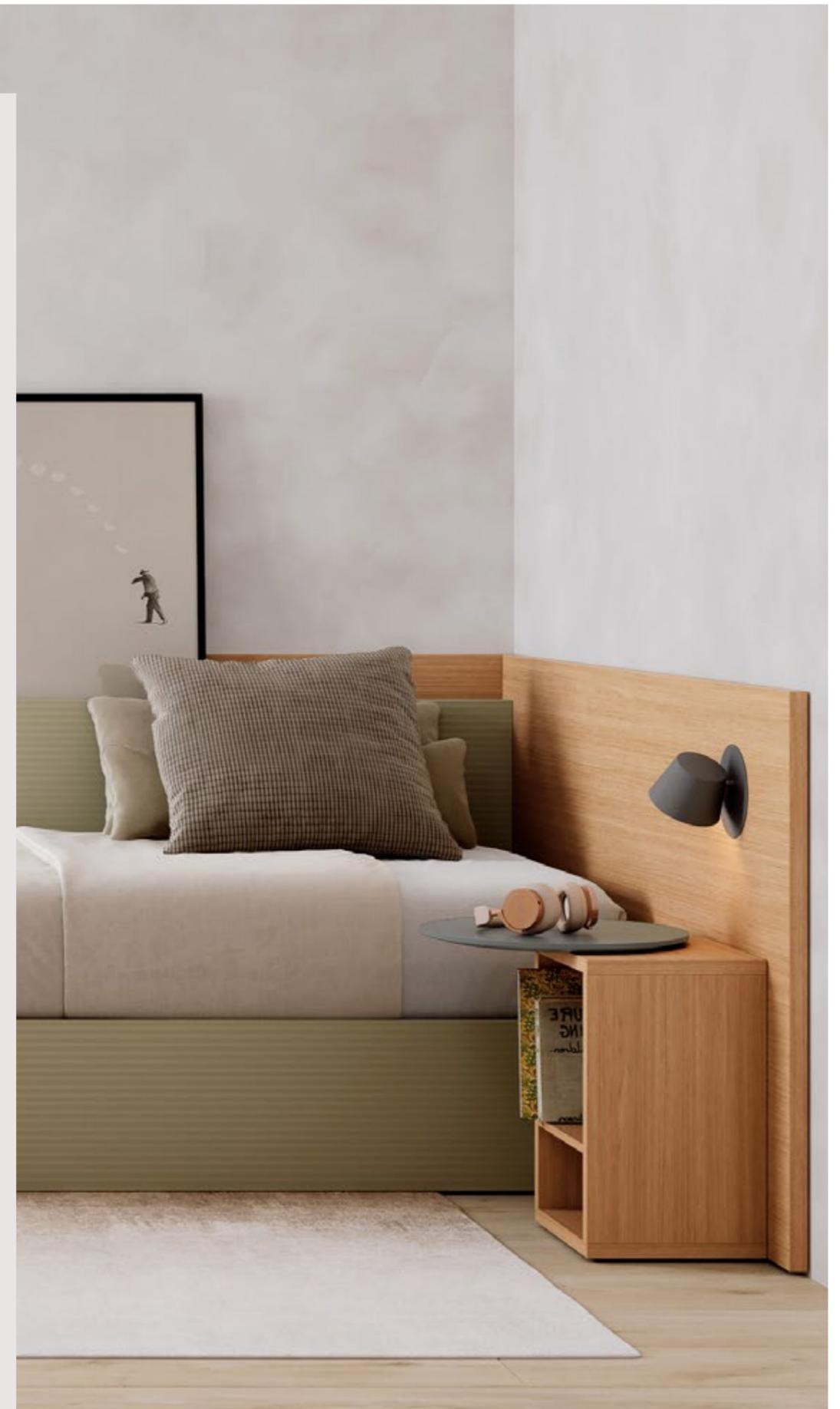
- Duo
- Studio
- CompacDecor®
- Any melamine with exclusive customer designs

- Our laminate flooring (Finfloor, Purefloor and customers' own brands).

According to ISO 22196: 2011 (JIS Z 2801).

- Fintop+ Countertops

According to ISO 22196: 2011 (JIS Z 2801).





# What documentation verifies it?

The external laboratory Industrial Microbiological Service LTD (IMSL) has tested the surface of our melamine under ISO 22196.

IMSL



The test showed that 24 hours after contact, the bacterial population was reduced by >99.99%.

This test is performed with two types of pathogenic bacteria: Escherichia coli (E. coli) and Staphylococcus aureus (S. Aureus).

The surface of our melamines inhibits the growth or proliferation of bacteria, meaning that it prevents their reproduction and the bacteria age and die. This effect lasts throughout the lifetime of the product.

# And furthermore...

We also offer veneered surfaces with natural wood veneer in a wide variety of formats, thicknesses and qualities. As it is a pre-sanded, unfinished material, it admits transparent or coloured treatments that include additives in their formulations to obtain surfaces with anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-algae properties. We have consulted varnish manufacturers and all of them have specific products. We recommend that you consult directly with your reference suppliers to obtain the desired performance and efficiency.

Our painted board, FibraPan® Print, can also be manufactured on request with fungicidal additives.

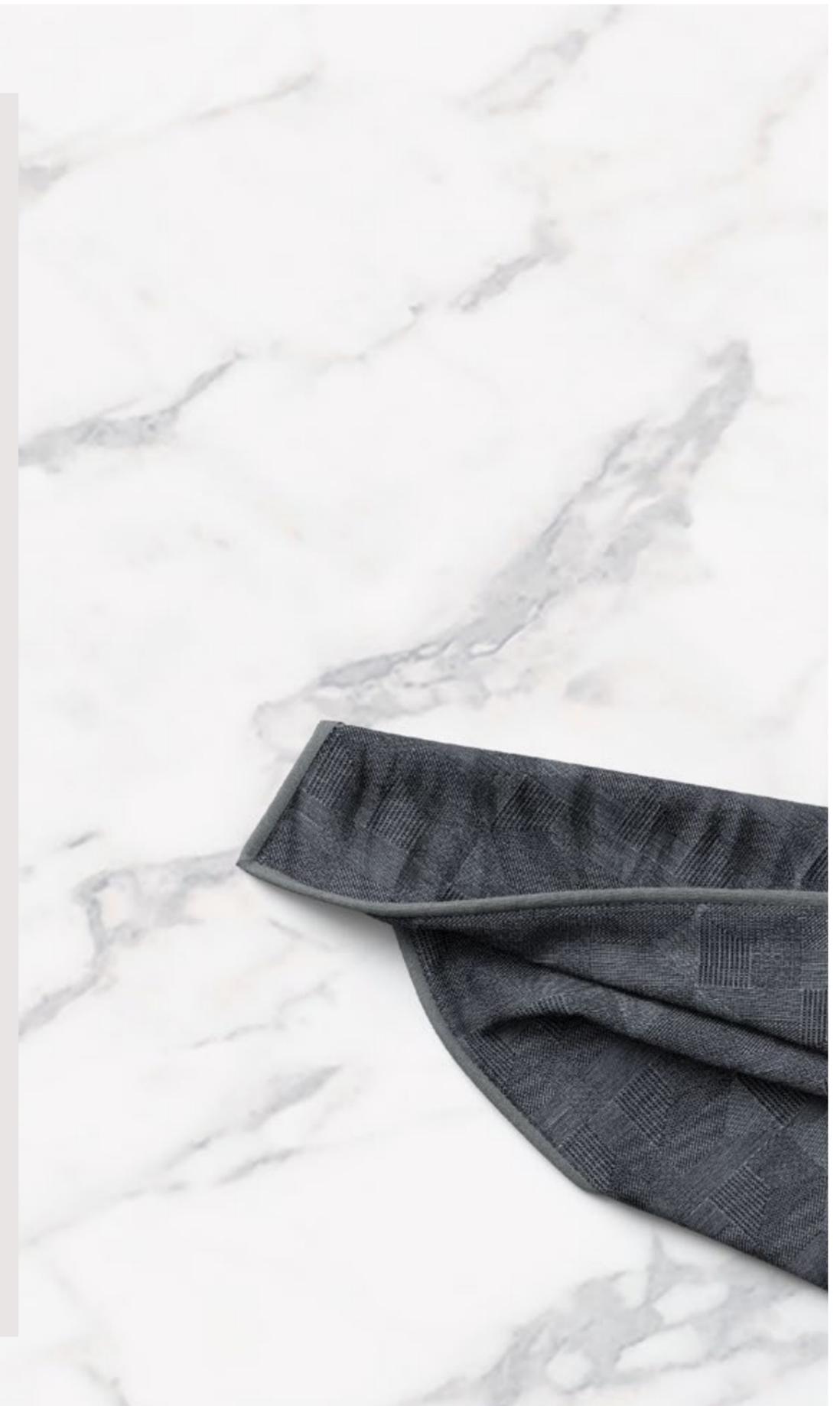


# Recommendations for cleaning and disinfection

These melamine surfaces are non-porous and resistant in nature. They are therefore easy to clean, do not require special care and make this surface a hygienic and durable material.

In EN 14323 (Wood-based panels. Melamine-coated boards for interior use. Test methods), substances that cause alterations or staining of melamine are collected and some cleaning and disinfecting agents are also included.

To maintain these surfaces only regular cleaning is required. In general, all that is required is to remove the dust with a soft, damp cloth, sponge or cloth, preferably with lukewarm water. But in the case of more persistent stains, other methods can be used:



- It is recommended to clean up liquid spills as soon as possible, especially in the case of wine, coffee, etc.
  - If there are grease stains present or visibly dirty surfaces, non-abrasive household cleaning products such as liquid soap, detergents or glass cleaners can be applied to help restore their original appearance.
  - In the case of stubborn stains such as inks, paints, varnishes, nail varnishes or water-soluble adhesives, the use of alcohol mixed with water or acetone is recommended.
- To disinfect these surfaces, products such as bleach diluted in water according to the manufacturer's instructions (active ingredient sodium hypochlorite) , 70<sup>o</sup> alcohol (active ingredient Ethanol) or disinfectant soap solutions as recommended by the manufacturer can be used. Rinse with clean water after use.

Under no circumstances should metallic scouring pads or sponges be used which could irreversibly damage the surface. Abrasive or highly acidic/alkaline cleaning agents must not be used.

Paint thinners are not recommended, nor are waxes or polishes, which will certainly alter the gloss and even the colour of these surfaces.

Finally, it is essential that after cleaning or disinfecting with wet solutions, the surfaces are dried thoroughly with a clean, dry cloth.

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