

# What Is Antimicrobial Fabric?

An antimicrobial fabric is any textile that offers protection against bacteria, mold, mildew, and other hazardous microbes. This can be achieved by treating the fabric with a proprietary topical chemical that inhibits the growth of pathogens or by using yarns which are designed to provide inherent microscopic antimicrobial functionality. In combination, these yarns fight microbes from developing while simultaneously promoting moisture movement, thereby maximizing comfort and extending the life of the fabric.

## How Does Antimicrobial Fabric Work?

Antimicrobial fabrics work the same way antimicrobial soaps and sanitizers do — by attacking pathogens on a cellular level to prevent their growth and reproduction. Different chemicals and textiles have different levels of effectiveness. Some products merely slow the spread of pathogens over time, while others are designed to kill spore cells on contact.

Clothing and linens offer a porous, warm and hard-to-clean environment that is ideal for microbe growth. One of the reasons antimicrobial material fabrics are so effective is that, by eliminating this hazard, they keep dangerous pathogens from spreading, which reduces the overall risk of infection in a hospital or other area where sanitation is essential.

## Where Are Antimicrobial Fabrics Used?

Clothes and hospital scrubs, as well as medical mattress covers, fabric and upholstery often use specially treated textiles to reduce the risk of disease transmission and prevent infection.

Another important application for antimicrobial fabric is military and defense contracting, where it is a component of counter-chemical/biological warfare garments and related equipment. Antimicrobial fabrics also make an excellent choice for footwear and athletic wear, where they help prevent odors.