

Colour Coded Cleaning

It was in the late 1990s that The British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICSc) first began to develop a universal colour code which would be recommended for use for the cleaning industry.

Using a single mop to clean every floor can spread bacteria from the washrooms and toilets to kitchen and food preparation areas. This carries with it an inherent risk of cross contamination and consequently, illness. Applying a colour coded system to segregate sensitive areas from one-another is the most efficient and effective way of reducing the risk of cross contamination.

Mop and Buckets



Red is a colour that is universally associated with hazards. This red colour code has been assigned to areas such as urinals, toilets and washroom floors. The reason for this is that these areas are regarded as posing a high-risk of bacterial contamination. By using only red-coded buckets with a red mop the risk of spreading bacteria outside of these areas is minimised.



Blue has been coded for low-risk area. These include areas such as offices or kitchens and corridors where there is a lower risk of bacterial contamination than in other areas e.g washrooms or toilets. Blue mops should always be used with a blue bucket.

So, what about microfibre cloths?



Blue is for general areas when using a *multi-surface cleaner*

Pink is for using *disinfectant* on toilet areas

Yellow is for using *disinfectant* on general areas

Green is used for *glass cleaner*, polishing mirrors and metal work