

# Cleaning and protection against virus and bacteria

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Cleaning and disinfecting our physical environments are essential to prevent the spread of virus and bacteria. The strong construction of Gabriel fabrics are designed for general cleaning and disinfection procedures as outlined in our cleaning guidelines and in this document.

We strongly recommend to follow the respective national government guidelines for keeping facilities and environments clean and safe (*ECDC, CDC*).

## **Cleaning, sanitising and disinfecting**

Gabriel generally recommends regular cleaning methods to keep fabric surfaces clean. General cleaning with water

and soap reduces the number of germs and microorganisms on the surface, and this process is an important step before sanitising or disinfection, as microorganisms can hide behind dirt or impurities.

A sanitising or disinfection process can be used to reduce the number of microorganisms even further (*ECDC, CDC, CDC-2*).

Always use disinfectants or sanitisers that are recommended by national authorities, and follow the procedures defined by the authorities or on the label of the disinfectants. General guidelines against COVID-19 for the European or American market can be found here (*ECDC, CDC*).

## Sanitisers and disinfectants

While Gabriel recommends that national requirements for disinfection procedures are followed at all times, our fabrics can be treated with the following sanitisers and disinfectants:

### Wool

#### Ethanol

Gabriel wool-based fabrics will resist the use of ethanol in accordance with authority guidelines. Sanitising or disinfecting wool fabrics with ethanol will, however, remove the lanolin and may cause colour changes and reduce the lifetime of the fabric. Consequently, this method should only be applied if there are no other alternatives.

Quarantining furniture until there is no contamination risk is often a better alternative than using chemicals.

### Polyester

#### Washing

Gabriel polyester fabrics are washable at high temperatures. Please refer to product specifications for further information on our [website](#).

#### Ethanol

Gabriel polyester fabrics will resist the use of ethanol in all concentrations for disinfection or sanitising.

#### Bleach

Gabriel polyester fabrics are resistant to bleach cleaning in a 10:1 dilution, based on 10 parts of water and one part bleach (5.25-6.25% sodium hypochlorite) or for products with 1000 ppm chlorine.

As bleach is a bleaching agent it may cause colour changes over time. How the bleach affects the colour depends on the fabric colour, frequency of disinfection, concentration of bleach solution and the final rinsing with clean water.

As bleach is an aggressive chemical, it may also have an adverse effect on the foam, glue or other upholstery materials.

Quarantining the furniture until there is no contamination risk is often a better alternative than using chemicals.



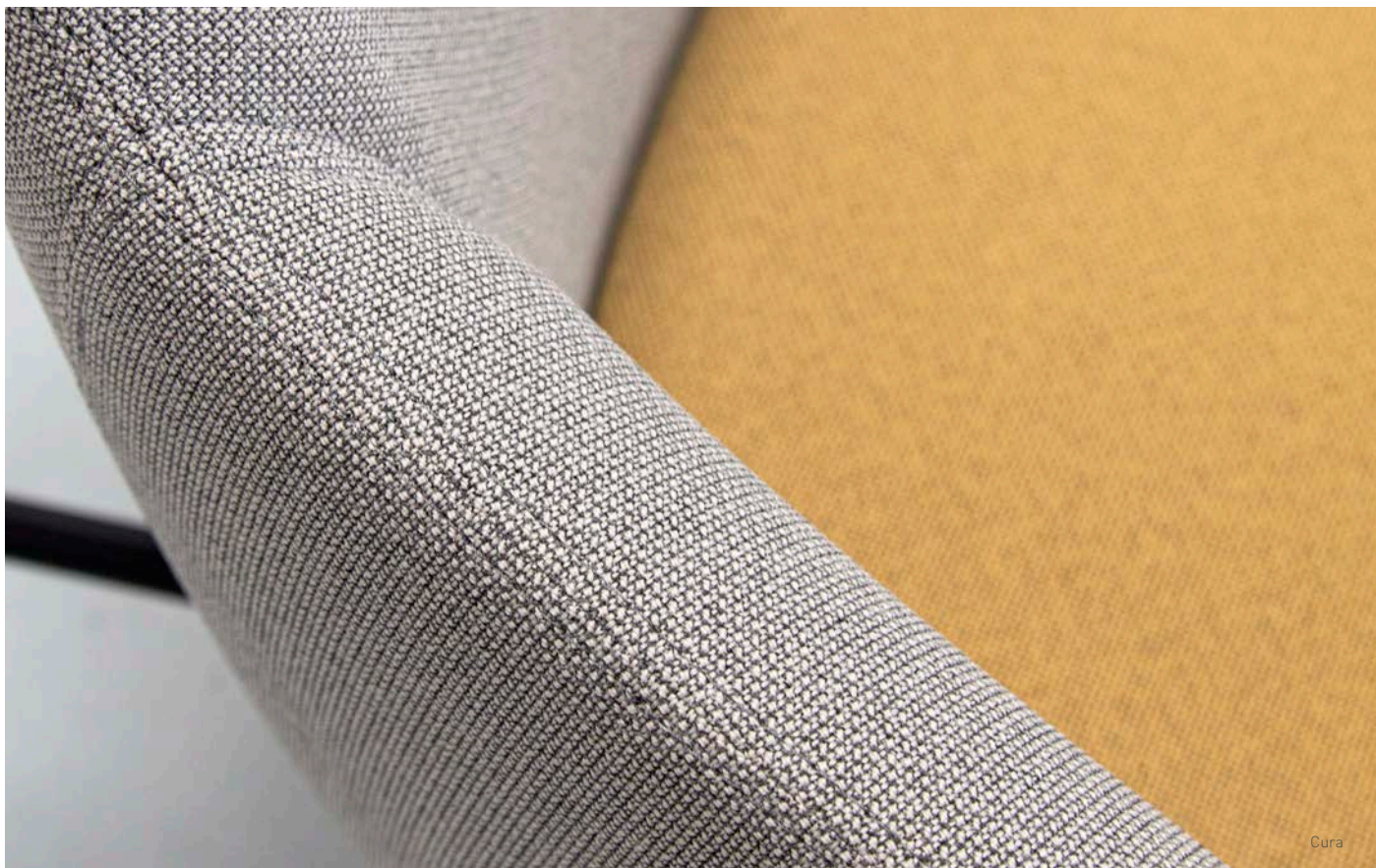
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#### Please note

Always rinse fabrics thoroughly with clean water after the use of disinfectants in order to remove any chemical residues remaining in the fabric after the recommended dwell time.

There are several other types of disinfectants and products on the market than the ones mentioned above. To ensure that the product will not cause adverse changes to the fabric, we recommend testing before general use.

Chemical disinfectants and sanitisers should in general only be used when absolutely necessary. To protect the environment, avoid using chemicals in higher concentrations than recommended for the specific purpose. For safety reasons and to protect your fabrics and furniture, always follow authority recommendations and the guidelines defined by the supplier of the disinfection chemical.



### **Antibacterial agents**

Authorities including the Danish health authorities SSI - Statens Serum Institut - advice against fabrics treated with antibacterial agents, as the use of antibacterial agents may lead to an increase in the occurrence of multi-resistant bacteria.

At Gabriel we are committed to protecting the environment and the health and safety of consumers, and consequently we do not recommend standard antibacterial and anti-viral agents for upholstery fabrics.

The effects of the agents in terms of reducing infections are uncertain, and they are likely to offer no more than a false sense of security. In addition, the antibacterial and anti-viral agents contain hazardous substances such as for example silver ions with adverse environmental impacts. Chemicals may be washed out, end up in waste water treatment plants and eventually contaminate the environment. Moreover, antibacterial treatments have a negative impact on the health and safety of work environments.

### **External links**

*ECDC*: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

*CDC*: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

*CDC-2*: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### **Links**

Content from these sources is for guidance only, and Gabriel takes no responsibility for the information available

### **For further information**

For further information on how to clean and disinfect Gabriel furniture fabrics, please visit our website or contact our department QEP-Master (quality, environment and safety).