

LIGHT COMMERCIAL MICROFIBER OUTPERFORMS GENERIC MICROFIBER IN EDUCATION



Background

Recognizing the critical need to enhance manual cleaning efforts and thereby mitigate the risk of infection for the safety of their students and staff, a cleaning study was conducted in an elementary school located in Fulton County, GA. Mr. Eric A. Flint, I.C.E. Coordinator of Environmental Services for Fulton County, decided to undertake a study to assess the impact of utilizing Rubbermaid Commercial Products (RCP) Light Commercial Microfiber cloths versus a generic microfiber for surface cleaning in a total of six kindergarten and first grade classrooms.

Methods:

The study took place from April 27th to May 13th, 2021 when five (5) surface microbial samples were collected in each of the six (6) classrooms yielding a total of thirty (30) samples per time point. The time points included baseline samples measuring the environmental microbial load, or number of bacteria, on three days prior (April 27-29) to the introduction of the RCP Light Commercial Microfiber cloths.

At the end of the school day when students were released, the custodial crew cleaned using a disinfectant and microfiber cloth. The custodial crew used generic cloths in their end-of-day cleaning during the baseline testing period, and they switched to RCP's Light Commercial Microfiber Cloth in the intervention period of the study.

Microbial samples were collected in the morning, prior to the arrival of staff and students, on three different dates during the baseline and intervention periods in the morning, and sent to a 3rd party laboratory for processing. Results were reported as colony forming units (CFUs) so that the levels of bacteria on each surface could be quantified. All microbial sample information was provided to an outside statistical analysis firm.

Results:

Laboratory evaluation of the 180 samples collected throughout the study demonstrated **a statistically significant reduction (p-value<0.00001) in bacteria on the tested classroom surfaces when RCP Light Commercial Microfiber was used** compared to the generic microfiber. Specifically, the average level of bacteria yielded by surface samples decreased by 83.4% upon inclusion of RCP Light Commercial Microfiber cloths in the daily custodial cleaning procedures in comparison to the usage of generic microfiber. The statistical analysis firm concluded, **"These results indicate that the quality of cleaning materials is an important factor that dictates the efficacy of custodial procedures and that RCP Light Commercial Microfiber cloth outperforms generic microfiber at a statistically significant level within educational settings."**

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. How to clean and disinfect schools to help slow the spread of flu. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm> Accessed 24 May 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Study saw statistically significant reduction in bacteria on tested classroom surfaces when using RCP Light Commercial Microfiber.

