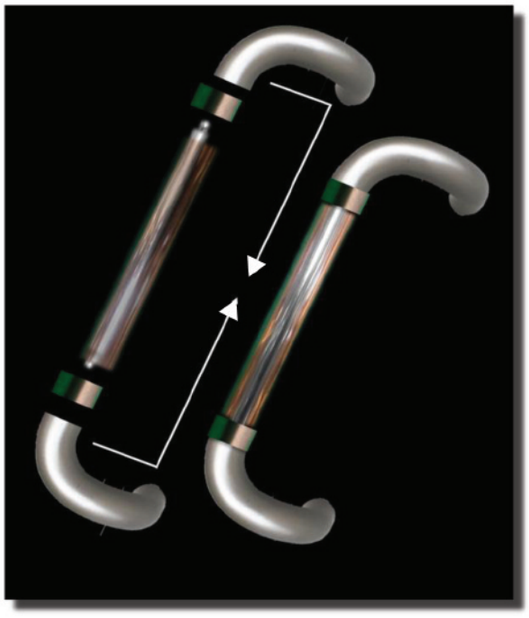


New rotating copper door handles from Copperhead Safety Products

COPPER – COVID'S KRYPTONITE

A silver lining to COVID-19? Yes! Going forward, we're all going to live in a much cleaner and safer world. In both personal and public hygiene, we have become ultra-aware of the need to wash our hands, clean common-contact surfaces, and direct our respiratory exhaust away from others. It's reasonable to believe these fundamental changes will stay a part of our culture even long after we have 'conquered' the current epidemic.

Yet while most facilities managers have been diligent about installing mitigating practices in their buildings, such as wiping down shopping carts and counter surfaces, one common-contact point shared by all facilities has been 'systemically' ignored: the entrance door handles.

A bit puzzling, because although there are many surfaces in any building that are points of *possible* contagion, the one surface that *every* visitor *must* touch is the handle that gets them into their now pristine building. Truth is, it is simply impractical to disinfect the doors between each and every visitor. And certainly not cost effective.

So, Is there a material that doesn't have to be disinfected every time someone touches it?

Turns Out We've Known All Along...

The solution to this seemingly intractable problem has actually been with us for thousands of years: Copper. COVID's Kryptonite.

In a recent article in Smithsonian Magazine entitled *Copper's Virus-Killing Powers Were Known Even to the Ancients*, numerous studies are cited that show while COVID and other bacteria and viruses persist on smooth, shiny surfaces such as stainless steel and plastic for many days, copper kills most pathogens on contact, and tougher ones, such as COVID, in as little as ten minutes.*

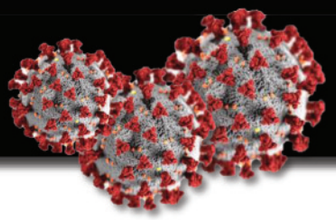
**Smithsonianmag.com April 14, 2020*

A Silver Bullet?

Copper, with odd atomic number 29, has but one electron is its outer shell, and that one lonely electron is looking to hook up with anything it can find. When it comes in contact with bacteria (think E. coli or Staph, etc.), it literally electrocutes the cell wall, bursting it open and killing it instantly.

Many viruses, such as those that cause influenza and the common cold, are also rendered useless on contact with copper. Others, such as COVID, take a little while longer - though those same electrons immediately start sending an unending barrage of jolts against their hardened outer shells, eventually causing a similar breach that leads to total leakage and demise of their deadly RNA.

So why aren't we using more copper now?



COVID-19 Mitgation

Well, in many cities in Peru, a country that still mines and uses copper extensively, they have replaced the stand-poles and handrails on all their new public transportation vehicles with copper. In Israel, they have been using copper in hospitals to replace bed rails, call buttons, and bed trays for years. Clinical studies (NEJM) have shown decreases in infections from those surfaces of up to 81%!

Assorted gym equipment handles at Cuverro.com

New copper products are already here

Google 'copper' and 'anti-microbial' and you'll find a slew of new products designed to help mitigate the spread of contact-spread infections.

DavidLadders, a vendor on Etsy, sells a fine line of copper door-opener tools, that are designed to eliminate the need to touch doors handles altogether. ***CopperCompression*** sells a facemask infused with a copper weave that kills pathogens traveling though it in both directions.

The most expansive line of copper touch-surface. products can be found at ***cuverro.com***, which sells products for hospitals and fitness centers, among others Copper grip surfaces on items such as dumbbells and weight machines eliminate the labor-intensive need to disinfect theses contact points between each user.

Your building is clean – your entrance is not!

Facilities managers would likely most appreciate the product line from ***Copperhead Safety Products***, which is the only company to date to directly address the issue of providing a clean and safe way for visitors to enter their buildings. The company's Kawneer-type handle upgrades, which replace the original aluminum gripping surface with a smoothly rotating pure copper handle, kills all bacteria and most viruses on contact, and also reduces the pressure required to affect door opening.

Their *patent-pending* Active Anti-Microbial Technology copper handles never need maintenance, as all the rotating components are milled to within 5/1000 of an inch to ensure free rotation at all temperatures. Better yet, they never need to be dis-infected, period. To ward off oxidation, they should be lightly polished once every two to three days. Interestingly, even fully oxidized copper still retains 100% of its anti-microbial properties.

Four style options in three C-T-C sizes

A safer future

Going forward, it's likely we not will revert to our former hygienic habits. It's also reasonable to expect we'll see many more products designed to improve facility safety by incorporating copper into common contagion-point surfaces, eliminating the time/expense of constantly decontaminating surfaces known to be transmitters of pathogens.

And maybe we'll find that silver lining after all.