

PRESS RELEASE

Cleaning of PVC window frames – Use disinfectant correctly: Gütegemeinschaft publishes information sheet

Bonn, 19 October 2020 – The cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and objects that are touched by many people every day are important measures in the fight against pathogens. This also applies to door and window handles. But what about the compatibility of PVC frames and disinfectants against the spray mist that comes into contact with the surface? The Gütegemeinschaft Kunststoff-Fensterprofilsysteme (GKFP) has commissioned a series of tests at the Institut für Oberflächentechnik (IFO) and published the results in an information sheet for window manufacturers and consumers. It can be downloaded from the association's website.

This has been examined

The IFO Institute located in Schwäbisch Gmünd examined the compatibility of three common surface disinfectants on uncoated and film-laminated PVC window profiles and their gaskets according to DIN EN ISO 2812-3.

These are the results

“The test series showed that all samples showed good resistance against the water-based disinfectants tested. The alcohol-based detergent, on the other hand, damaged the decorative film and caused the gasket to swell easily. Only the uncoated PVC sample showed good resistance to all the agents tested,” says Timo Pott, project manager at IFO.

These are the GKFP cleaning tips

“Based on the test results, the Gütegemeinschaft strongly advises against using alcohol-based agents for the disinfection of PVC windows,” explains GKFP Managing Director Gerald Feigenbutz. „In principle, we recommend cleaning the window with lukewarm water and some soap or detergent instead of disinfectant“.

In addition, the product should not be sprayed directly onto the handle and frame. The so-called wipe disinfection has proven to be more effective: The disinfectant or cleaning product is first applied to a cloth and then the surface is wiped clean. The mechanical action removes the germs on the surface similar to washing hands.

The recommendations for cleaning and disinfection of PVC frames are summarised in the Quality Association's information sheet, which is available for download at gkfp.de > Publications.

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About us

The **RAL Gütegemeinschaft Kunststoff-Fensterprofilsysteme e.V.** (Quality Association for PVC Window Profile Systems) (GKFP) awards the RAL Quality Mark to member companies that fulfil the rules of the RAL-GZ 716 quality and test specifications. The aim is to comply with the highest quality requirements in order to ensure that the products manufactured are suitable for long-term use. The members of the association consist of system houses, manufacturers of seals, raw materials, foils, adhesive systems, seals and machines as well as contract laminators.



Picture credits: Wipe disinfection ensures thorough cleaning. ©GKFP/Sarah Heuser

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