

## CAPITAL CONCERNS



### Hygiene, hands and hard surfaces

**As swine flu causes concern and speculation across the world we are advised by public health authorities to pay attention to basic hygiene.**

There are various estimates with regard to how long the virus can live outside the human body, including some that say it can survive on a hard surface for 24 hours. Telephones and computers are obvious locations.

This is clearly hitting home. Here at Capital we're fielding a significant increase in enquiries about the cleaning of office technical equipment and telephones.

At Capital we think about hygiene all the time and we'd like to reassure our customers that we use the most effective cleaners and cleaning processes, all designed to reduce cross contamination.

In 2008 we got together with our suppliers to source a completely new range of cleaning products, created exclusively for our use.

We found out that scientific tests had identified Caflon 6411 (Didecyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride) as the anti-bacterial agent that is most effective against germs commonly found on keyboards and telephones.

Capital's casing cleaner and anti-static solutions now contain Caflon 6411 as do the wipes we use for telephone handsets and keyboards.

The casing cleaner we use for computer towers, cases, keyboards and mice has two ammonia compounds that are effective against e-coli, salmonella and listeria.

For telephone ear and mouth pieces our sachet-protected anti-bacterial wipes have similar properties yet are designed for comfortable use near the face.

It's true that we all tend to underestimate the number and variety of the germs in and around our workspaces. Various investigations have suggested that there are often more germs on a keyboard than on the handle of a toilet door.

As Derek Ettridge, Purchasing Manager at Capital notes "The space underneath a keyboard is a great place for germs to lurk. We are infecting our own keyboards every time we cough and sneeze. Tiny fragments of dropped food can cause a fungal growth."

For this reason keyboards receive particular attention when they are cleaned. Derek explains: "We apply some cleaner to our special brushes and by holding the keyboard at an angle we can get underneath the keys and brush down. We also pay careful attention to all key punches. Our cleaners kill most germs, fungi and viral infections."

It takes an experienced Capital operative about six minutes to clean a typical workstation, longer for one which has not been maintained well. Our operatives are given gloves to wear when they work. This has up to now been an option; we are now advising that gloves should be worn all the time. We are also providing anti-bacterial hand gel on all sites.

If you have any queries please get in touch.

**Call us now on FREEPHONE 0800 013 2182**

Further information can be downloaded below:

[Planning for a human influenza pandemic - Schools and Childrens Services](#)

[Planning for a human influenza pandemic - Parents](#)

[NHS - Catch it, bin it, kill it poster](#)

[Pandemic flu - risk guidance for businesses](#)

**Cleaning products used by Capital now contain an anti-bacterial agent to combat the spread of germs.**

Germs regularly found in keyboards include:

**Staphylococcus aureus  
Escherichia coli  
Salmonella typhi**

Tests have been carried out by scientists to see what anti-bacterial agent was most effective against germs commonly found on keyboards and telephones. It was found that Caflon 6411 (Didecyl Dimethyl Ammonium Chloride) was most effective in dealing with these germs.

Capital's casing cleaner and anti-static solutions now contain Caflon 6411 as do our sachets for telephone handsets and keyboards to help reduce cross contamination.

### Computer Cleaning

Today, with health and safety high on the agenda, computer cleaning is still in great demand and with hot desking being a feature of many offices, sanitisation of keyboards and telephones is essential in order to reduce the risk of cross contamination. Regular preventative maintenance is also essential. It can not only extend the life of equipment, but can also help prevent equipment failure.

### Technical Room Cleaning

A technical room is an area of any size that contains technical or computer equipment. Because this equipment has special maintenance requirements, office cleaners should never be allowed to clean technical rooms. The main aim is to minimise the risk of critical equipment failure due to static discharge or dust contamination. In addition, companies and organisations see that improved working conditions lead to improved staff morale and productivity.

### Trading Area Cleans

Anyone working in the financial market or trading sector of commerce knows how highly charged trading areas can be. With demanding clients and pressing targets, dealers need computer and communications technology at their fingertips. At the end of a busy day, these trading positions can look a little the worse for wear and although a daily tidy up by your general office cleaners can help keep the situation under control, every now and then these areas are in urgent need of a thorough deep clean. That is where we come in.

### Builders Clean

We can be involved with rooms when they are little more than a shell, removing brick dust and rubble, right up until handover when we will have carried out extensive deep cleaning from slab to slab. Our objective is to have removed all traces of the build and construction process, leaving a clinically clean environment fit for purpose. We can cope with any situation, anywhere. We have worked on large projects with high ceilings and deep floor voids, through to small areas housing communication or power distribution equipment, and everything else in between.