

Fixtures and Fittings

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All fixtures and fittings should prevent the collection of dust and growth of mold, mildew and other microorganisms
- They must be easy to maintain, and have proven durability under actual conditions of use and maintenance in healthcare facilities

CURTAINS AND BLINDS

- Curtains can easily become contaminated with microorganisms. All curtains must be able to withstand a washing process at disinfection temperatures (71°C for 25 minutes or more), or be able to withstand the washing/drying sanitizing processes that occur in an industrial or institutional setting
- Venetian horizontal blinds are not recommended as they become dusty and difficult to clean. Certain vertical blinds may be acceptable if design allows appropriate cleaning
- Blinds need to be of a construction that allows cleaning of all surfaces and functional parts

FITTINGS

- The use of lamps with fabric shades is not recommended
- If fabric shades used, the fabric must be removable and be able to withstand washing temperatures of 71°C for 3 minutes or 65°C for 10 minutes
- It is recommended to avoid lamps that have pull strings for operation, unless it is a material that is easily cleaned and will not rust
- Ceiling lights and wall mounted fixtures should have lenses and enclosed housings

VANITY TOPS

- Vanity tops must be constructed of a solid surface material, with integrated bowl and backsplash

Fixtures and Fittings (continued)

HANDRAILS AND OTHER HARDWARE

- Stainless steel remains the material of choice for handrails and other hardware, because of its durability and ease of maintenance
- Wood is acceptable if sealed, but requires ongoing maintenance

CEILING

- The ceiling must be cleanable and built to prevent the infiltration of dust from the plenum space
- The ceiling should be made of a material that does not promote the growth of microorganisms

WALLS

- Low volatile organic compound (VOC) scrub-able paint must be used
- If vinyl wall covering is selected, it should have minimal texture to facilitate thorough cleaning
- All wall coating/covering and adhesives used must have antimicrobial treatments where available

FLOORS

- Sheet vinyl flooring with welded seams and an integral cove base
- Carpeting in patient care areas is strongly discouraged