



EDUCATION



BACKGROUND

BioCote® ran a study to measure and compare the number of microbes in two classrooms in the same primary school. Products featuring BioCote®'s antimicrobial protection were extensively applied to one whilst the second was unchanged.

BioCote® is exclusive to Waterlogic® for water dispensers and so the studies were of particular interest to validate the antimicrobial protection offered around key areas of the dispenser.

AIM

The scientists at BioCote® wanted to carry out live tests to see how well BioCote® performs in the school classroom. This was a perfect environment to test as classrooms present the classic factors that support the efficient spread of microbes: close contact of people for prolonged periods, numerous commonly touched communal surfaces and isolated cleaning. Hygiene in these environments is, therefore, important in order to reduce the risk of microbial cross contamination. Inevitably, good hygiene guidance for education providers from government includes regular, thorough environmental cleaning.

The BioCote® school study:

PROVEN PROTECTION IN THE WORLD'S FIRST
ANTIMICROBIAL CLASSROOM

“ We are very proud to be part of the world's first 'antimicrobial classroom'. We were keen to undertake the study and prove the effectiveness of BioCote® technology in a school environment. We are happy to announce huge microbial reductions on BioCote® treated products, affirming our aim of a more hygienic classroom for young children. ”

DR RICHARD HASTINGS
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND MICROBIOLOGIST
AT BIOCOTE®



METHOD

BioCote® created the world’s first ever antimicrobial classroom at a primary school in the UK, during the autumn of 2014. For the study, the classroom was equipped with a range of products protected with BioCote® antimicrobial technology. These items included the following treated products: computer desks, tables and bookcases, chairs, door handles, light switches, soap dispensers, cable trunking, storage trays and units, carpets, radiator covers, window handles, wall paint, wall cladding and of course a Waterlogic water dispenser. A second classroom was included in this study to serve as a control environment.

The demographics of both classrooms were suitably comparable. Both classrooms were used and cleaned as normal. A standard water dispenser, not produced by Waterlogic and not featuring BioCote® was used in the control environment.

FINDINGS

The Waterlogic water dispenser featuring BioCote® had an impressive 96.79% lower total microbial count when compared to the standard non-BioCote® protected water dispenser in the unprotected room. A comparison of the average number of microbes recovered from all BioCote® treated products with all corresponding products in the control classroom revealed almost 96% less microbial contamination in the antimicrobial classroom.

TABLE: Difference in average colony counts per product in treated and untreated classroom

Product	%Reduction
Computer Desk	92.65%
Desk Chair	97.12%
Door Handle	98.58%
Bookcase	97.43%
Painted Surfaces	91.30%
Soap Dispenser	96.26%
Waterlogic® Water dispenser	96.79%



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BioCote® technology does not protect users or others against disease causing bacteria, germs, viruses or other harmful organisms. This technology is not a substitute for good hygiene and/or cleaning practices.

CONCLUSION

Over 95% reduced counts of microbes on the antimicrobial products, compared to the control classroom’s counterparts, testifies to the continued antimicrobial performance of BioCote®. One would expect commonly touched surfaces like door handles to have a high microbial count, but it is more significant for a drinking water dispenser to assure greater levels of hygiene. From schools, leisure facilities, to office environments, this is great reassurance. Products treated with BioCote® technology, like Waterlogic water dispensers, come with the guarantee that before release into the market, are validated for acceptably high antimicrobial efficacy.

“ Many of our Waterlogic units are supplied for uses such as in schools and universities. We have worked with BioCote® for many years due to its highly effective antimicrobial properties. It is great to see these remarkable results in the BioCote®’s protected classroom test. Clearly BioCote® is the top performer in its category and this is compelling information. Whilst it is obviously good practice to regularly clean a water dispenser, by combining routine cleaning with BioCote protection, microbial levels will be greatly reduced.

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