



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

After two years of research and performance testing, York Wallcoverings, in partnership with a leading company in the field of anti-microbial protection, answered a challenge from our distributors by developing YorkGuard Anti-Microbial Protection (YorkGuard AM).

**What is YorkGuard AM?** YorkGuard AM is a non-leaching, non-migrating, durable anti-microbial polymer that has been developed to protect commercial wallcovering against mold, mildew, and odor causing bacteria.

**How does it work?** YorkGuard AM chemically reacts with surface molecules, transforming them into continuously active antimicrobial surfaces. With a permanent bond to the front and back of the wallcovering surface, the molecular structure of YorkGuard AM stands ready to puncture the cell membrane and 'electrocute' any microorganism coming in contact with it

**Is it safe?** The technology is EPA approved, and has been proven safe and effective in a variety of other commercial uses including carpeting, clothing and even babies' diapers, but until now, has never been used for wallcoverings?

Are there other anti-microbial technologies that are currently used for wallcoverings? Yes. 'Leaching' technologies exist, that function by injecting poisonous toxins into the microorganisms. However, YorkGuard AM is a non-leaching technology that offers some distinct and compelling advantages over leaching technologies.

### **What are some of those differences?**

- YorkGuard AM is non-migrating and will not leach onto the skin or into the environment.
- YorkGuard's technology takes effect within 15 minutes of contact, compared to 24 hours for leaching technology.
- YorkGuard AM is effective against a broad range of organisms.
- Because YorkGuard AM uses no toxins, it does not contribute to microbial adaptation
- YorkGuard protection is extremely durable and can not be removed from the surface, even by repeated washings. Leaching technology can expend itself.
- YorkGuard AM is the only anti-microbial protection being applied to both sides of the wallcovering.
- YorkGuard AM is the only anti-microbial protection to offer a 5-year guarantee.

**Can YorkGuard AM be added to paint to protect walls?** To be effective, YorkGuard AM must be applied at full strength. By mixing with paint, the active molecules are covered or diluted and therefore rendered ineffective.

**Can you coat an existing wall surface with YorkGuard AM?** You could not get the same depth or uniformity of coverage that can be achieved with a controlled factory application and heat drying process. With a product that is already coated, dried, environmentally safe, and ready to perform in the room, wallcoverings are the most effective and cost efficient method of providing the coverage.

**Who are the best candidates for YorkGuard AM protection?** The most obvious candidates would be healthcare facilities and installations in hot, humid environments where mold and mildew are more likely to exist. But in today's society, any public space should be interested in the benefits of YorkGuard AM.

**What products are available with YorkGuard AM?** Any York Contract 54" commercial vinyl wallcoverings are available with YorkGuard AM protection. A minimum order of 120 yards is the only requirement.

