



Surface protection for safer spaces

**Enhanced
COVID-19
protection**
For colleagues
and clients





10 reasons to choose Touchpoint Shield™



- 1** Proven continuous protection
- 2** Guaranteed long-term solution
- 3** Best practice hygiene standards
- 4** Clear focus on highest risks
- 5** Enhanced workforce wellbeing
- 6** Fast application – instant results
- 7** Marketable for competitive advantage
- 8** Helps control cleaning costs
- 9** Eco-friendly – supports CSR commitments
- 10** Delivered by a leader in COVID-19 services

See Touchpoint Shield™ – the benefits: pages 11 and 12.

Creating safer spaces

The challenge

Most people agree, the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic has changed attitudes to cleanliness and hygiene for good.

This will fundamentally affect how we must clean and maintain workspaces and the environments in which services are delivered.

New ways are needed to provide long-term protection from all pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19.

The solution

Introducing **Touchpoint Shield™** from SafeGroup, a revolution in antimicrobial protection. Touchpoint Shield™ combines the durability of nanoceramics with the proven anti-microbial power of silver ion technology.

Working together, they create an impenetrable barrier against viruses, including the COVID-19 virus, as well as bacteria and fungi.

Easy to apply by our trained technicians, Touchpoint Shield™ treated surfaces will help protect your workforce and customers against harmful pathogens for up to three years in high touchpoint areas.

No other antimicrobial product currently on the market can promise to provide protection as effective and long-lasting.



Back to work clean and safe

The vaccine programme gives us an opportunity to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. As this happens, many see the need to improve health, safety and wellbeing. Touchpoint Shield™ can play a part in this. Improving hygiene standards, to **build back better**.



The Touchpoint Shield™ Difference

Untreated Surface

Regular disinfection cleaning is effective against microbial contamination, such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and mould, for short periods.

After that time, new microbes landing on the surface, or left by touch transmission, thrive and replicate, quickly restoring infection risk.

Treated Surface

The positively charged silver ions in the nanoceramic coating are attracted to negatively charged microbes transmitted onto the surface.

By different methods, depending on the pathogen, they instantly begin destroying the cells, leaving the surface 99.99% free of harmful microbes.





Touchpoint Shield™ Coating

The Touchpoint Shield™ coating magnified 1,400 times. Its smooth surface, resistant to microbes and grime, can clearly be seen.

Touchpoint Shield™ - the science

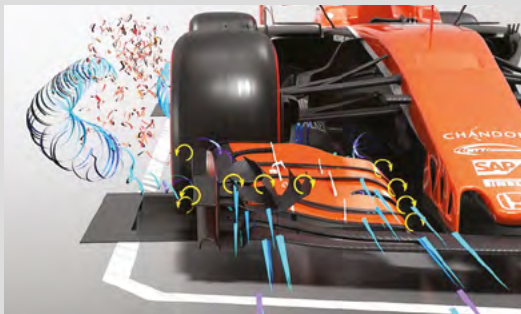
Touchpoint Shield™ combines two proven technologies in one innovative coating to support a bio-secure environment. Non-toxic and incredibly long-lasting, it provides continuous protection against viruses, bacteria, fungi and mould.

Nanoceramics

Touchpoint Shield™ is a coating we call a liquid glass, because it is made from billions of nanoceramic particles.

When applied, these extremely small particles form very stable covalent bonds with atoms in the material surface, creating a super-durable layer of glass that cannot be removed by regular cleaning.

Near invisible and around 5-7 microns in depth, about half the thickness of a human hair, this nanoceramic layer is the perfect medium for holding antimicrobial silver ions.



Ceramic success: Formula One teams are using our nanoceramic coating on their racing cars. This eliminates lengthy polishing, protects advanced materials, and creates a super-smooth surface that improves aerodynamics.

Silver ions

Touchpoint Shield™ is impregnated with silver ions. The antimicrobial benefits of silver have been known for thousands of years (see page 13).

Our advanced coating allows these positively charged silver ions (Ag^+) to continuously act against pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2, on high touch points in any building or public space.

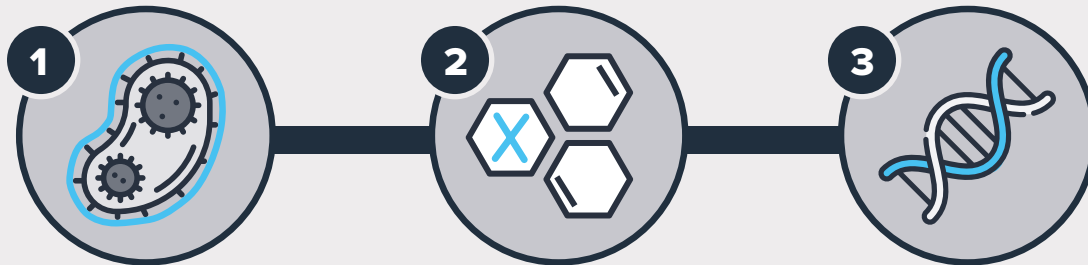
Tests show 15 minutes after application, the silver ions in Touchpoint Shield™ destroy 98.7% of viruses present, going on to reduce viral load by 99.99%.



Space silver: The same silver ions in Touchpoint Shield™ have been sent into orbit. To help protect against microbes on the International Space Station, NASA has coated the door of its space toilet with silver and ruthenium.

How it works

Touchpoint Shield™ can be applied to any porous or non-porous surface, including wood, metal, plastic and fabric, so is ideal for protecting many different kinds of high transmission touchpoints. Silver ions target and destroy microbes in different ways:



1 Positively charged silver ions are attracted to pathogens. The ions then disrupt their DNA, preventing cell division which stops replication.

2 Silver ions enter bacterial cells where they block the respiratory system, preventing energy production so killing the cell.

3 With viruses, silver ions interact with RNA which prevents the virus from replicating, which is the only way it survives.

Safe and comprehensive protection

Touchpoint Shield™ is completely safe for humans.

It is non-toxic and its efficacy does not rely on any other chemicals, treatments or processes.

TouchPoint Shield™ acts directly on the pathogen cells.

Therefore, it does not create an environment in which a virus or bacterium can mutate to create a resistant variant.

Touchpoint Shield™ also protects against odour-causing bacteria, so Touchpoint Shield™ maintains a hygienic and fresh surface.

The silver ions do not degrade. They go on working every second of every day, leaving the treated surface 99.99% free of harmful pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2.

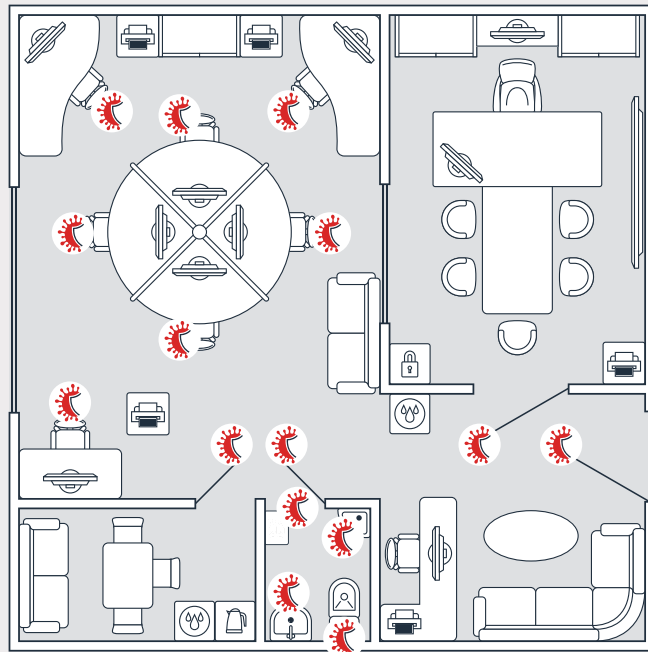


Where we apply Touchpoint Shield™

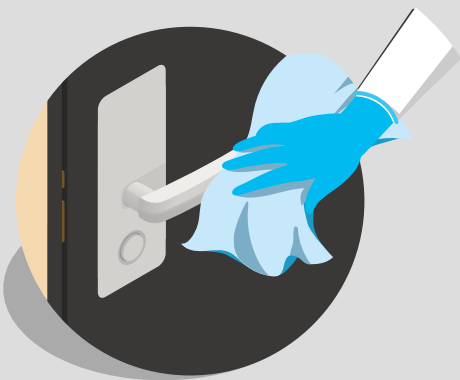
Touchpoint Shield™ is applied by our trained coating technicians in a two-stage process to deliver its long-lasting anti-microbial protection. Firstly, we work with customers to identify which high-frequency touch points they want to protect.

High touchpoints protected by Touchpoint Shield™

- Door handles
- Door push plates
- Stair handrails
- Equipment controls
- Chairs, including seats, backrests and armrests
- Vehicle door handles
- Safety rails
- Care home support rails
- Public transport grab rails
- Hand dryers
- Toilet lids
- Taps



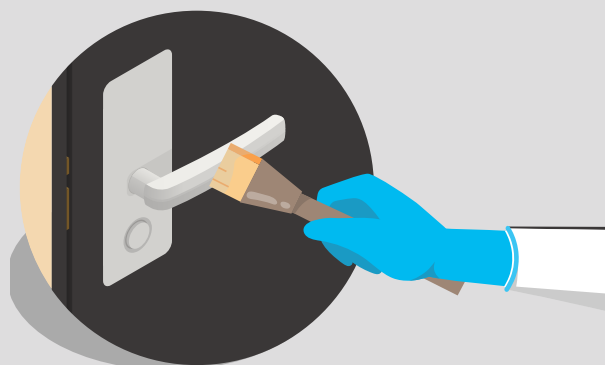
How we apply Touchpoint Shield™



Step 1

Surface preparation

All touch points selected to be coated are cleaned with a high-performance degreasing agent to ensure surfaces are clean and ready to be coated.



Step 2

Touchpoint Shield™ application

Our technicians are trained to ensure the optimum amount of the coating is applied. This maximises its effectiveness and controls customer costs.

Fast coating service

Thanks to the skill of our technicians, Touchpoint Shield™ is easy to apply and provides active protection within minutes.

In average ambient temperatures (*for example 18-20C*) the liquid glass coating dries in 15-25 minutes. In colder conditions it can take longer, in warmer conditions, it can take less time.

Once the coating has hardened, its silver ions instantly get to work, destroying any pathogens present and preventing new ones from taking hold on the protected surface.

Given the need to give the coating time to dry, customers often opt for having it applied out of working hours, for example at night.

However, by working with customers and their employees, SafeGroup can also apply Touchpoint Shield™ in live environments with minimal disruption.

Visible assurance

At the same time as applying the coating, SafeGroup's teams can also apply stickers and notices on or next to treated surfaces to inform people of the enhanced protection against microbes, including the COVID-19 virus.

This provides excellent reassurance for employees, stakeholders, and customers alike. They will see significant extra steps are being taken to ensure their safety, boosting their confidence as they return to work or to your premises as customers. As such, Touchpoint Shield™ will support your post-pandemic return-to-business plans.



Proving it works

Laser testing

We understand you and your colleagues will want to be sure that Touchpoint Shield™ remains in place. Therefore, the coating contains an additive which reflects laser light. This allows us to carry out periodic tests, as part of on-going maintenance, by shining laser light onto the coated surface. This demonstrates Touchpoint Shield™ and its active silver ions continue to protect your workforce and customers.

Laboratory testing

As part of our service maintenance package, we can carry out laboratory testing of an agreed sample of coated surfaces to ensure the coating continues to deliver extremely low bioburden levels, in line with expectations, throughout the life of the product.

We use laboratory testing instead of ATP testing because it is more accurate. See our separate FAQ sheet for more information on this topic. This hygiene monitoring will take place at locations of your choice.

Touchpoint Shield™ – scientific tests

Touchpoint Shield™ has been subject to multiple certified independent laboratory tests to establish its anti-viral and anti-bacterial effectiveness on porous and non-porous surfaces, as well as its safety.

They include:

ISO 21702: 2019 – Measurement of anti-viral (SARS-CoV-2) activity on plastics and other non-porous surfaces

ISO 18184: 2019 – Determination of anti-viral (SARS-CoV-2) activity of textile products

MOD ISO 20743 – Anti-bacterial activity on textiles

MOD ISO 22196 – Anti-bacterial activity on non-porous surface

Skin irritation protection – reconstructed epidermis test method to OECD Test Guideline 439

Fire retardancy test in accordance with BS 5852: 1979 Part 1

Test results

The tests showed Touchpoint Shield™:

- **Reduced SARS-CoV-2** on a non-porous surface by 99.6%
- **Reduced SARS-CoV-2** on a sofa textile by 99.99%
- **Reduced E coli bacteria** on non-porous surfaces by 99.95%
- **Reduced Staph bacteria** on non-porous surfaces by 99.94%
- **Reduced E coli** on coated fabrics that had been washed 3 times by 99.99%
- **Is not a skin irritant**
- **Passed furniture and furnishing fire safety regulations**



How Touchpoint Shield™ is maintained

Customer cleaning

Once it is applied, our customers just have to keep the coated surface clean, as part of their regular cleaning regime with pH neutral environmentally-friendly products, to maintain its efficacy. This is to ensure no dirt or grime builds up on the coating's surface, preventing the impregnated silver ions from reaching the microbes.

Touchpoint Shield™ support

Touch Point Shield™'s nanoceramic liquid glass coating has an exceptionally strong covalent bond with surfaces it is applied to, providing an effective lifetime of the product of up to three years.

Because the silver ions are impregnated throughout this super-tough coating, they cannot be removed, even by the rubbing action caused by repeated cleaning.

While the coating is still in place, the silver ions go on working day and night. Therefore, we provide a service and care package designed to confirm Touchpoint Shield™ will remain effective for up to three years.

Touchpoint Shield™ service package

As part of our ongoing service support, we will visit your premises every 12 months to carry out an audit of areas treated with Touchpoint Shield™ to confirm it is providing the protection you need.

This includes carrying out visual checks of application sites and conducting two specific tests – laser testing and laboratory microbial testing – as described on page 9.

Renewing the coating

We recommend that the Touchpoint Shield™ should be renewed after three years to ensure protection against pathogens is maintained at maximum levels.

This is achieved by simply removing the coating using a specialist gel and then reapplying a new coating, which will then provide ongoing protection for another three years.

Recoating within service periods

As part of its service agreement, SafeGroup will agree to recoat a set number of coated touchpoints within a three year period from the date of application. This assists customers where, for example, faulty door handles or other furniture have to be replaced.



Touchpoint Shield™ – the benefits

Touchpoint Shield™ delivers multiple benefits for businesses that adopt it, its employees, customers and the wider community. As such, it has major health and safety, commercial and environmental advantages.

Protection - Up to three years of peace of mind

Touchpoint Shield™ will provide enhanced protection for your colleagues and customers. It is proven to be effective against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 and a wide range of other pathogens, including other viruses, bacteria, fungi, and mould. When applied to high touch point areas it goes on working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, greatly reducing the risk of potentially harmful microorganisms being present at high levels in between cleaning.

The coating is proven, durable and dependable. Once in place, it will continue to work with minimal maintenance. All you have to do is keep the treated surfaces clean in the usual way.

Assurance – Rebuilding confidence

Touchpoint Shield™ supports effective and smooth COVID-19 post-pandemic return to work plans by providing reassurance to colleagues that effective measures are in place to prevent the transmission of the virus and other pathogens. It can play a key role in meeting heightened expectations around hygiene standards in the post-COVID-19 workplace and public spaces.

Wellbeing – Investing in staff and customers

Employee and customer wellbeing has grown in importance even without the pandemic. A visible and long-term commitment (supported by installation of stickers) to reduce health risks in the workplace and customer space is likely to be welcomed. Where Touchpoint Shield™ is applied, it helps build trust by providing a fresh and clean start to each working day, as it goes on acting against bacteria and viruses 24/7 between cleans.



Touchpoint Shield™ – the benefits

Commercial advantage

There will be very serious concerns about COVID-19 for months, if not years, to come. As the planned recovery from the pandemic progresses, businesses that can demonstrate and publicise that they are providing enhanced protection for colleagues and customers are very likely to enjoy a commercial advantage over their competitors.

Cost efficiency

Having Touchpoint Shield™ in place allows organisations to maintain high COVID-19 hygiene standards in between cleans. Simply wipe clean with a pH neutral cleaning agent to help maintain an enhanced COVID-19 secure environment. This controls costs and allows resources to be focused on other critical areas.

Touchpoint Shield™ also makes surfaces much more grime resistant. It actively protects surfaces against dirt and other marks, making it easier and faster to keep coated surfaces clean and looking their best.

Improved sustainability

Touchpoint Shield™ supports a more environmentally-friendly way to maximise hygiene levels at high infection transmission points. Because the coating is the primary anti-microbial agent, only pH neutral cleaning fluids are needed to maintain its surface, reducing the need for harsher cleaning chemicals. This is good for the environment, so supports sustainable maintenance and CSR strategies that underpin brands and help give many businesses a competitive edge.



Smooth ceramics

Ceramic coatings and components are proving their worth in many applications thanks to their durability, thermal resistance and chemical inertness, making them stable and non-toxic.

Touchpoint Shield™ has been developed from a nanoceramic coating that provides the world's best protective coating for super yachts.

Ceramic coatings are used to protect vehicles against chemicals, UV light and bird guano. Because they are hydrophobic, they also guard against water damage.

Ceramic coatings are also used in a range of other products that demonstrate their durability, including artificial hips and aero engines, where they protect against heat and are resistant to wear.



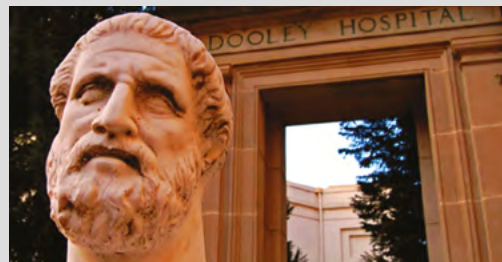
Silver bug bullet

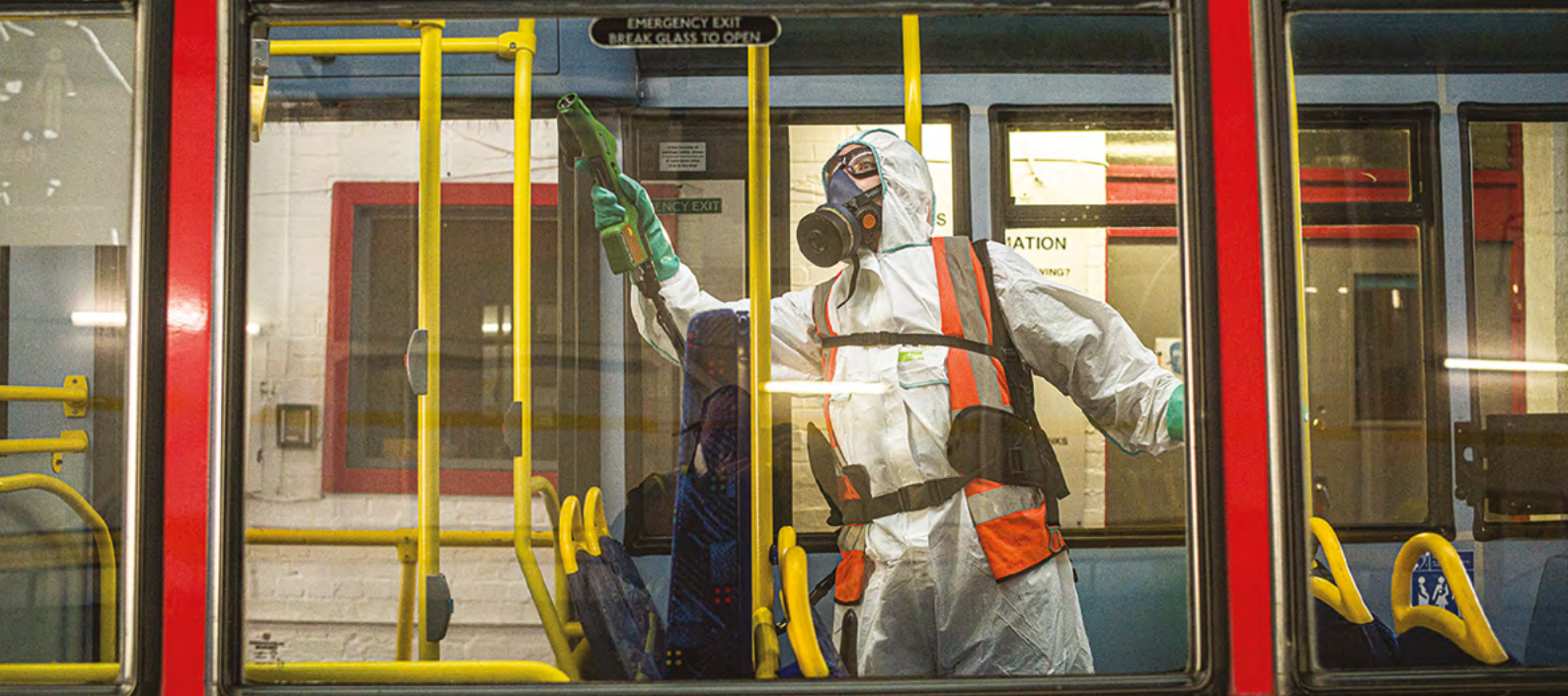
Silver has been used to prevent microbial infections for at least 6,000 years. In 1200 BCE, the Phoenicians stored water in silver containers to keep it fresh, a practice copied by the Romans.

In 400 BCE Hippocrates, the Greek philosopher and founder of modern medicine, recommended using silver in wound care.

Fast forward to the Victorian era and pioneers crossing North America used to put silver dollars in their milk to stop it going sour.

By the 20th Century, the reasons for silver's antiseptic action were being understood, leading to the development of silver wound dressings, reducing our reliance on antibiotics.





Touchpoint Shield™ from SafeGroup

SafeGroup is a national leader in emergency soft FM and waste management services.

We provide a range of COVID-19 services. These include COVID-19 disinfection and protection, and collection of waste associated with lateral flow testing plus related PPE. We provide COVID-19 services for clients across the UK, including major public transport providers, retailer and manufacturers.

We always aim to deliver exceptional results and value for customers by using the latest innovative technologies and methods, combined with the highest health and safety standards and a can-do spirit.

SafeGroup Service Promise



Expertise

SafeGroup has unrivalled expertise across its service range – helping our clients overcome their biggest operational challenges.



Speed

FM emergencies require a rapid and agile response. You can depend on SafeGroup to deploy the right resources every time.



Technology

We use the most advanced equipment, materials and techniques, supported by the latest digital workflow systems.



Safety

Safety is our paramount concern. Our work is underpinned by industry-leading training and quality standards.



Determination

We are known for our can-do approach and spirit. Where others may falter, we are determined to deliver.



Range

From COVID-19 disinfection to hazardous waste collection. SafeGroup provides integrated solutions that deliver the best value.

Touchpoint ShieldTM

from SafeGroup



0800 668 1268

www.thesafegroup.co.uk

London • Birmingham • Manchester • Edinburgh • Dorchester