

surface & panel

UNITING MATERIALS, TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

ADVANCES FOR TEXTURIZING SURFACES

MATERIALS FOR THE NEW OFFICE

PEG SYSTEM OFFERS SOLUTIONS

SPECIAL SECTION:

THE WOODWORKING INDUSTRY'S PLAN B

Since Omnova prides itself on having laminates that are specifically designed for the healthcare industry, it makes sense that they would go through with the testing, as it's been said that 3DL will be much more common in not just healthcare facilities, but offices and other workplaces.

When it comes to antimicrobial benefits, hardware manufacturers are developing products that have protective features. "Avoiding germs and creating a safe living environment have become increasingly important these days, especially when it comes to points of frequent contact like door handles," said Laurie Doherty, account executive for Nostalgic Warehouse. "There are natural antimicrobial qualities of brass doorknobs and hardware. An unlacquered solid brass doorknob actually has a chemical reaction that helps reduce germ build-up: a virus can survive just minutes on a copper or brass surface," she said.



are referring to this new trend as 'resimercial'—the combination of home and work environments."

Stredler went on to explain that as more companies implement return to the workplace plans, safety will be top of mind. Part of this process will include repeated and thorough cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

"The challenge is, many traditional commercial doors are not designed to withstand such rigorous cleaning cycles. That's why we're offering smooth grain doors. They provide a unique opening solution that combines the strength and durability of steel doors with the beautiful and comforting feel of wood, fit for commercial office space, schools and healthcare facilities." Designed to withstand rigorous cleaning cycles, the doors give architects and designers freedom not typically offered for commercial spaces to create a warmer environment.

In addition to these evolving trends in the workplace like walls covered with antimicrobial paint and rounded corners to minimize bacterial deposits, there are also other elements that we can expect to see when returning to the workplace. This typically depends on the overall size of the operation and how many employees will be in the facility.

"Obviously the smaller the team, the easier it is," said European developer Liviu Tudor. "It's going to be different for each organization. With countries around the world slowly easing the lockdown and promoting going back to work, the question remains on how buildings need to operate and manage crowds—and what the future of the office is."

"With larger companies, we could start to see more extreme measures being taken, like building entrances providing temperature scanning equipment and digital display units that will be placed in receptions to show immunity-boosting indicators such as daily improvement of indoor air quality. We're already seeing businesses require customers to have their temperatures taken before entering, and we can expect that with larger operations in our industry."

There's no question that the normal paradigm is challenged for sure. Management teams are constantly finding news ways to help their organizations adapt to this new normal. "It's about designing with your ears and not just your eyes," said Gerson. "When employees come back, they're going to want to know that they're protected. Things are changing. The way we work, travel, consume food. How you can change your space to adapt to these new realities is going to be critical." **s&p**



ABOVE: BRASS DOORKNOBS AND HARDWARE PROVIDE NATURAL ANTIMICROBIAL QUALITIES THROUGH CHEMICAL REACTIONS THAT HELP REDUCE GERM BUILD-UP
LEFT: ACRYLIC CASHIER SHIELDS AND INDIVIDUAL FACE SHIELDS ARE AMONG THE NEW PRODUCT OFFERINGS FROM COOPER INDUSTRIES