

FACT SHEET ON THE PERSONAL AND COSMETIC APPLICATIONS OF IoWIPE

PRODUCT: A more effective sanitizing personal and cosmetic sponge sheet wiper.

WHAT IS THE IoWIPE?

A 6" x 6" x .25 thick black antimicrobial sponge sheet, having an extraordinary soft, moist texture with exceptional traction as a skin wipe. It employs the next generation of a broad spectrum antimicrobial, based on a new form of iodine now in use to treat chronic, resistant wounds. It applies a thin, moist sanitizing layer to the skin that is more effective in treating virtually all skin damaging micro-organisms when compared to current biocidal wipers, lotions, sticky gels, sprays and quats. The IoWipe material has no reported adverse effects to the skin, and has been approved by the FDA in the form of an advanced wound healing dressing known as IoPlex.

WHY WAS IT DEVELOPED?

New micro-organisms are constantly evolving that are resistant to our current antibiotics and antimicrobials, with some bacteria forming biofilm barriers to all currently available treatments. Therefore, a better biocidal was needed to treat such organisms and also not contribute to immune resistance. Iodine meets these criteria.

WHAT IS ITS COMPOSITION?

A durable, highly absorbing biocompatible polymeric sponge sheet chemically reacted with iodine, producing a new polymer type called an iodophor, a new form of iodine. The iodine is complexed to the polymer, not impregnated. The moisture it releases contains only a few parts per million of iodine, but sufficient to be very germicidal.

HOW IT WORKS

The iodine is bonded and therefore intrinsic to the polymer (won't wash out in running clean water), but when brought in contact with organic material e.g. bacteria, viruses, fungi, it will release iodine and kill by oxidizing the bacteria and sanitizing the surface. It is a form of iodine called an iodophor which controls iodine dosage. The iodine content in the wipe will eventually be dissipated, turning the sponge sheet color from black to off white. The dissipation rate is determined by the degree of skin contamination and number of uses. The wipe's color change is a convenient indicator of continued effectiveness, and notification when to replace, or be iodine recharged. IoWipe is multi-use, stored moist in a re-sealable plastic pouch, always ready for its next use.

DISCUSSION

Alcohol's quick evaporation upon application seriously reduces its germicidal activity. Tests have shown that *in practice*, a thoroughly wet alcohol applicator swab only reduces the general bacterial count by 70%, leaving many resistant bacteria and viruses still active. Also, alcohol does not treat many types of viruses and has little or no effect on spores. Alcohol kills by denaturing or drying out microorganisms. However, it also dries out the skin, producing cracking, and leaves no germ fighting residue after application. Tests have shown that skin that has been frequently exposed to alcohol becomes much more susceptible to infection, as the skin's natural barrier is compromised.

COMPARISON BETWEEN CURRENT WIPES AND IoWIPE

Quaternary amine or benzalkonium chloride solutions impregnated into multi wipe delivery packs in products such as SaniHands, Wet Ones and Purell are considered to be low level antimicrobials by the CDC and cannot therefore be considered reliable biocides to treat resistant bacteria.

SUMMARY: WHY IS IoWIPE SUPERIOR TO OTHER WIPES?

- **FDA Approved.** It is the *only* antimicrobial material already approved by the FDA for treating chronic wounds (IoPlex), adapted to make a consumer skin sanitizing device.
- **Powerfully Effective.** Performs all 3 antimicrobial functions, being antiseptic, disinfecting as well as a sterilant. It has the broadest spectrum of antimicrobial activity of any product on the market, killing bacteria, viruses, yeast, fungi, spores and protozoan parasites.
- **Self-sterilizing.** In or out of its pouch, the iodine content present will continue to kill any micro-organisms in the wipe, leaving the wipe fresh for its next use.
- **Fast Acting.** At least twice as fast as alcohol in killing skin micro-organisms.
- **More Persistent.** Leaves behind a minute amount of iodine which acts as a protective presence on the skin, discouraging re-infection.
- **Low Maintenance.** If dry, simply rinse with cool water; any excess water is squeezed out, returning it instantly to original dampness.
- **Economical.** It's reusable, and therefore far more economical on a cost per use basis than a one use throw away wipe. This product is space saving, eliminating the need to purchase or store wiper tubs, spray bottles, dispensers, paper towels, etc. Large, used batches may be recycled by iodine recharging, e.g. cruise ships, hospitals
- **Inspires Confidence.** The user knows when the antimicrobial effectiveness is dissipated as its color turns from jet black to grey/white indicating need for replacement. The longevity of effectiveness depends on frequency of use and micro-organism exposure.
- **It's GREEN.** IoWipes can be used repeatedly before their effectiveness dissipates, and unlike single use wipes, is never discarded after one use. This product therefore drastically eliminates the waste produced by the disposal of wipes, wiper tubs, wrappers, dispensers, spray bottles, paper towels, etc. It may be shared in an office by multiple users, eliminating the need for numerous dispenser stations.
- **Convenience.** It may be carried in a personal re-sealable moisture retaining plastic pouch which can be kept in handbag or pocket for quick accessibility, and imprinted with instructions and company information.
- **User Appeal and Gentleness.** Cosmetically soft with a pleasing texture and good skin traction allows for use especially in sanitizing the hands, face and eyelids, while removing skin residues. Gentle application to the face can treat bacterial growth that cause facial blemishes.

USE INSTRUCTIONS:

- IoWipe is not meant to remove obvious debris or makeup. It is used only personally, to sanitize skin of hand and face, not hard surfaces.
- Contact the skin using gentle pressure with a wiping, cleansing motion.
- Contact time should be at least 10 seconds. The surface will be dampened by the contained water/iodine mix but will quickly evaporate.
- The wipe is used after touching public surfaces and wiping hands thereafter e.g. handshakes, hand rails, doorknobs; not used to wipe the surface before touching.
- Store in provided re-sealable plastic bag.

IMPORTANT

If the wipe begins to feel slightly dry or stiffens due to being stored outside its storage bag, simply dampen with water and gently squeeze out to distribute the water throughout the wipe and replace in re-sealable bag. IoWipe should always be in a moist but not soaked state.

INTOLERANCE TO IODINE

Iodine sensitivity and related reactions are uncommon, as iodine is naturally present in our bodies and found in iodized salt. Apply initially to a small skin area to assure no hypersensitivity.

TYPICAL PERSONAL SANITIZING HINTS

- Personal, routine sanitizing and cooling refreshment, to kill germs on the hands and face thus preventing the spread of infection. Use after touching public surfaces, e.g. bathroom door handles and knobs, telephones, computer keyboards, handrails and banisters, gym and locker room handles, shopping cart handles etc.
- Health care facilities e.g. any wellness facility, including acupuncture clinics, chiropractic and doctors' offices and hospitals for the practitioners, instead of alcohol gels that dehydrate the skin, increasing vulnerability to cracking with frequent use
- Baby care e.g. nursing and breast/nipple sanitizing
- Antimicrobial face and eyelid wiping to treat bacteria-based eye lash infection (e.g. blepharitis) and other eyelid conditions where alcohol-based products are precluded.