



Antibacterial properties

of our decorative surfaces



What is a Microorganism?

Microorganisms are microscopic living organisms.

There are microorganisms that cause diseases (pathogens), but many that are not harmful and some even benefit us for example:



Yoghurt bacteria



Intestinal flora bacteria

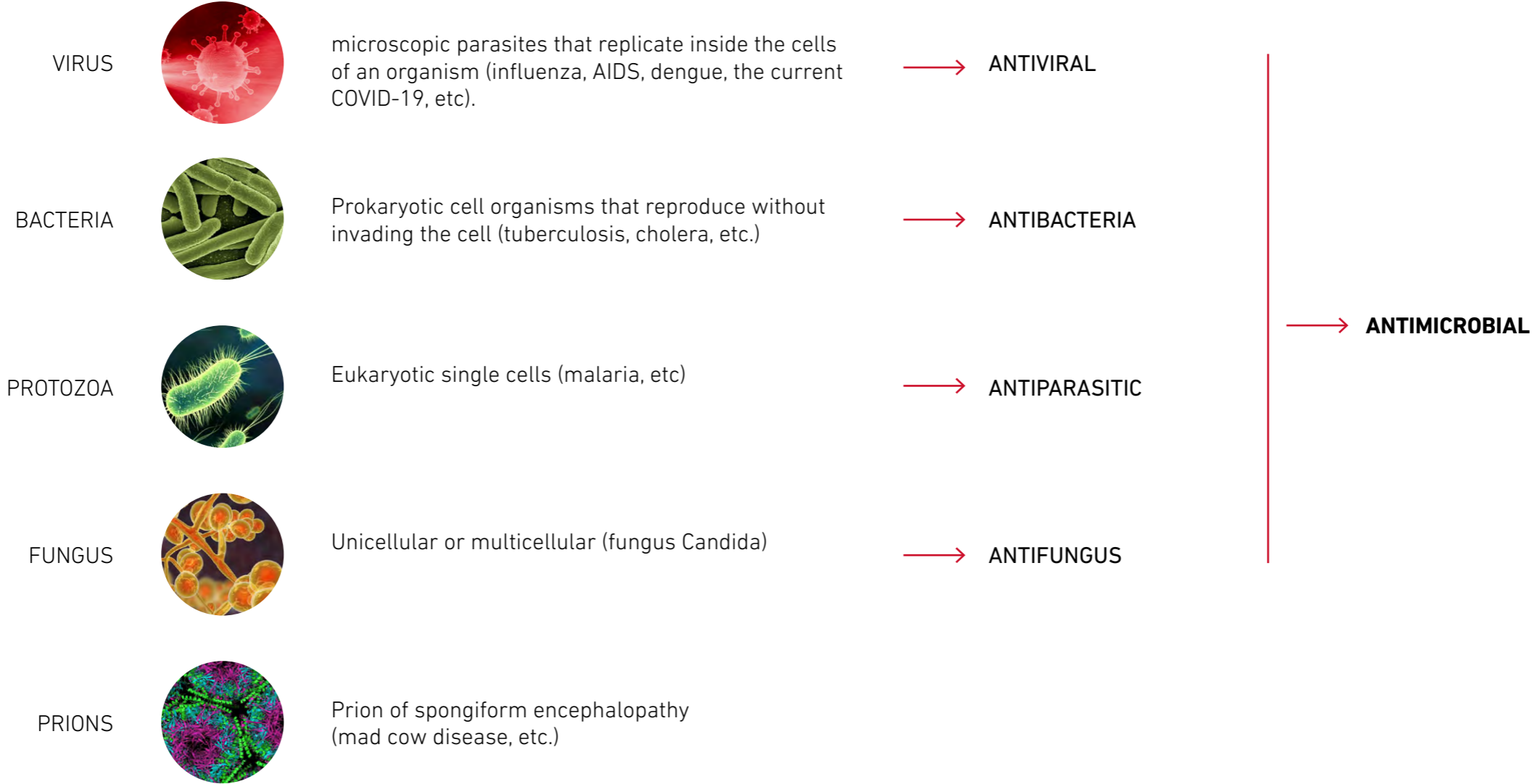


Soil bacteria



What is a pathogenic microorganism?

Pathogenic microorganism = it causes disease.



Surfaces with antimicrobial properties

Materials and surfaces can be a refuge for microorganisms and can be a source of cross-contamination when there is contact with a contaminated surface.

For this reason, it is desirable to provide materials with antimicrobial characteristics to provide products that are safer from a hygienic and sanitary point of view. But still it is vital to maintain an adequate cleaning protocol to avoid possible infections.



What is the difference between antimicrobial and antibacterial?

Antimicrobial is effective against a wide spectrum of microorganisms. This includes bacteria, mould, fungus and even some types of virus.

Antibacterial is only effective against bacteria.



Surfaces with antibacterial properties

Surfaces with antibacterial characteristics must:

- Inhibit the ability of bacteria to grow on its surface (bacteriostatic effect);
- Or eliminate them (bactericidal effect).

Therefore, antibacterial surfaces:

- Contribute to cleaner spaces and a healthier life.
- Improve the quality of the indoor environment.
- Prevent the development of infectious diseases.

In any case, an antibacterial surface does not substitute for regular cleaning practices as specified by product manufacturers.



Materials with antibacterial properties

Finsa's range has the following materials with antibacterial properties:

- Our Laminate Flooring (**FinFloor, PureFloor** and **exclusive brands**). As per the Standard ISO 22196
- All **FINSA melamine surfaces** have antibacterial properties, across all baseboards and thicknesses. As per ISO 22196: 2011 (JIS Z 2801)
 - **Duo Collection**
 - **Studio Collection**
 - **CompacMel**
 - **All melamine with exclusive customer designs**
- **Fintop+** worktops. As per ISO 22196.
- **Ideal Glow** and **Ideal Matt** textures from Duo Collection. As per ISO 22196



Which documents accredits this?

The external laboratory Industrial Microbiological Service LTD (IMSL) has tested the surface of our melamines under ISO 22196.

IMSL



The test shows that 24h after contact the number of bacteria is reduced by > 99.99%.

The test was done for two types of bacterial pathogens: Escherichia coli (E. coli) and Staphylococcus aureus (S. Aureus).

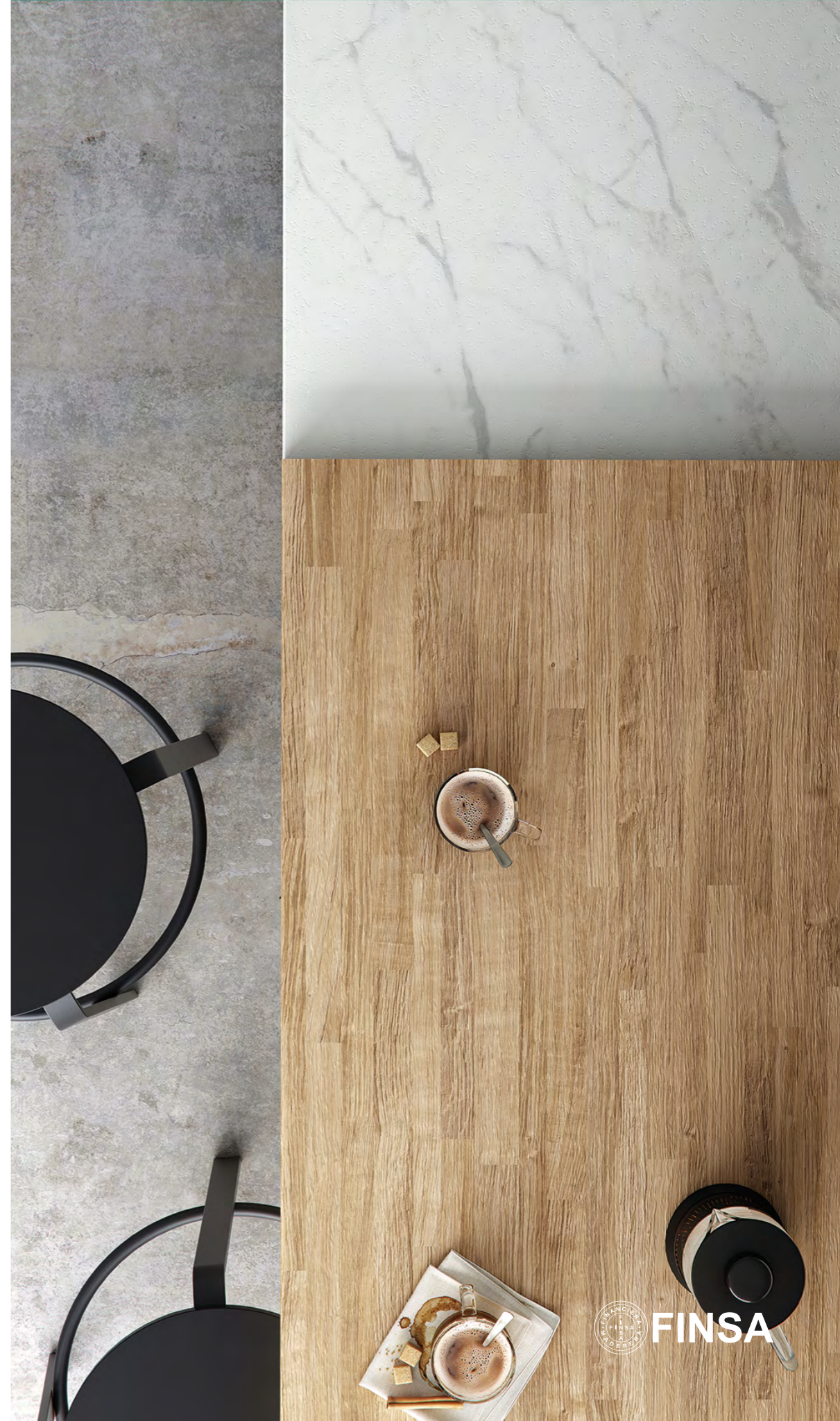
The surface of our melamine inhibit the growth or proliferation of bacteria, it prevents their reproduction and bacteria age and die. The antibacterial effect is maintained during the useful life of the product.

And also...

We offer **veneer surfaces**, with natural wood veneer in a variety of formats, thicknesses and qualities. As a presanded, unfinished material it can be treated with transparent or coloured formulations including additives to obtain surfaces with antibacterial, antifungal and anti-algal properties.

We have checked with varnish manufacturers and all have these special products. We recommend that you check directly with them and follow their instructions to obtain the desired efficacy.

Our painted board, called **Fibraprint**, can be manufactured with fungicide additives (product available on request).




Recommendations for cleaning and disinfection

Melamine surfaces are natural, non-porous, hygienic and durable materials. They are easy to clean and they do not need special care.

Under EN 14323 (Wood-based panels. Melamine faced boards for interior uses) the test methods cover substances that cause alterations or staining in the melamine surface and also mention some agents to clean and disinfect it.

Melamine surfaces require only regular cleaning. In general, it is only necessary to remove the dust with a cloth, or soft sponge, preferably with warm water. But in the case that the stains are more persistent, other methods of cleaning can be used:

- It is recommended to clean up spills of liquids as soon as possible, especially if it's wine or coffee.
- In the presence of grease stains or visibly dirty surfaces, it is recommended to apply non-abrasive cleaning products like liquid soap or window cleaner.
- In the case of difficult stains such as inks, paints, varnishes, lacquers nail polish or water-based adhesives, it is recommended the use of alcohol mixed with water or acetone.



For disinfection of these surfaces you can use products like diluted bleach in water as per manufacturer instructions (active ingredient Sodium Hypochlorite), alcohol 70° (active ingredient Ethanol) or disinfecting soap solutions for domestic use following always manufacturer instructions.

After that, surfaces should be rinsed with clean water.

Never use scourers or metallic sponges, they can produce irreversible damages on the melamine surface. Do not use abrasive cleaning products or highly acidic / alkaline substances.

Paint thinners are not recommended. Do not apply waxes or polishes as they will definitely affect the brightness and even the colour of melamine surfaces.

It is essential to dry the surface with a clean and dry cloth after cleaning or disinfecting.



We hope that this information has been useful. Do not hesitate to contact our commercial network with any additional query or if you require further clarification.

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