Mother and Child Centre Protected with Copper

At The Embrace – a non-profit facility in Athens, Greece that supports and cares for pregnant women in difficult circumstances – providing a safe and comfortable environment for women and their new babies is of paramount importance. Hygiene and infection prevention are at the forefront of their service, and now antimicrobial copper touch surfaces are augmenting existing sanitation procedures.

Copper is inherently antimicrobial. On contact, disease-causing pathogens are quickly and completely eradicated. Copper shares this benefit with many alloys – including brass and bronze – which are collectively termed ‘antimicrobial copper’. Touch surfaces made from antimicrobial copper consistently harbour significantly fewer germs than other surfaces, contributing to a more hygienic environment.

Antimicrobial copper items – such as taps, IV drip poles and bedrails – are already used in healthcare settings across the world to reduce the spread of infections. Now, following a campaign to bring the remarkable properties of antimicrobial copper to areas beyond healthcare, an association offering care and support to pregnant women is protecting its vulnerable patients with more hygienic touch surfaces.

With the support of a grant offered by Copper Alliance, antimicrobial copper door handles, light switches and handrails have been installed in the facility. In addition to the expectant mothers, regular visitors include social workers, psychologists, gynaecologists, obstetricians and lawyers. This high traffic poses a significant risk of cross contamination, but the antimicrobial copper items will continuously reduce surface contamination, 24/7 and in-between cleans.

Barbara Metallinou, President of The Embrace, explains: ‘As our primary concern is the health of the mothers and babies using our facilities, infection control is a subject we take very seriously. The decision to augment our existing hygiene protocols with antimicrobial copper was easily made – it’s a simple measure that doesn’t need special maintenance from staff or cleaners, and could save lives. We’re delighted with the newly-installed items and confident we’re offering mothers the cleanest and safest environment possible for their children.’

For more information and case studies, and to see the range of antimicrobial copper products available from companies around the world, visit www.antimicrobialcopper.org.
Editor's note:

The Copper Alliance is the common identity uniting a global network of Copper Centres and their industry-leading members, with a mission to defend and grow markets for copper based on its superior technical performance and its contribution to a higher quality of life worldwide. In the UK, Copper Development Association is the national Copper Centre.

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