

**PRIVACY CURTAINS CANNOT  
BE CLEANED BY UV-C**



OR Sustainability Expert

**FIRST  
CASE**

**KAREN GOELST**  
CEO & FOUNDER OF KLEENEDGE

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## HIGH-RISK TOUCHPOINTS AND SURFACES

*Karen Goelst | CEO & Founder of KleenEdge*

**Myth:** Privacy curtains can be cleaned with UV-C.

**Fact:** UV-C light stations can only decontaminate curtains when repositioned for each cycle so both sides of the curtain are treated.

As it relates to curtains, UV-C decontamination is less efficient than laundering but may be a feasible adjunct to enhance the microbiological safety of textiles in place but does nothing for dust, spots or stains and will add an additional 111 minutes to terminal cleaning times!

There are 4 things to consider when utilizing UV-C to decontaminate curtains:

1. UV-C is not for daily decontamination of curtains. Instead, it is for use during terminal cleans only. Room must be clear of all occupants.
2. UV-C does not replace a hospital protocol on laundering curtains. The disinfection device does not remove dust or visible soil (i.e., blood, body fluids, feces, etc.)
3. Substantial capital equipment and routine maintenance cost for UV-C.
4. The use of UV-C devices will delay turn-over time in a room. Soil (both visible and invisible) can hinder the effectiveness of a UV-C disinfection device. When the room is clean, it takes from 30-60 minutes for a complete cycle that will eliminate pathogenic organisms.

At the end of the 171-201-minute cycle, the EVS worker must return to make the bed and prepare the space for the next patient. The whole process from beginning to end could take as much as 4 hours or longer before the next patient can be admitted to the space if the privacy curtain is included in the decontamination.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Karen at [kgoelst@KleenEdge.com](mailto:kgoelst@KleenEdge.com)

*OR Sustainability Expert Series™ Biography:*

# Karen Goelst

## Founder & CEO



With a 20-year background in architectural specialties and textiles, Karen Goelst became passionate about solving the issues surrounding privacy curtains following her 15-year-old son's hospital stay with MRSA.

Staying at his bedside she noticed everybody touched the fabric privacy curtain, but the label showed that it hadn't been exchanged for 14 months. Thankfully her son recovered, but this realization started her journey in trying to understand why curtains weren't getting exchanged, when other touchpoints in the room were thoroughly disinfected. Karen founded KleenEdge to ensure this infection risk did not impact other families.

KleenEdge builds its privacy curtain solutions on 4 pillars:

- Protocol software that monitors curtain exchange compliance
- Sustainable cost-saving recyclable curtains
- No-ladder solutions to promote lean workflows and safety
- Patient and staff safety

Launched in 2018, the company received early accolades for its innovative Protocol Compliance Software, receiving AHE's Product Innovation Award, as well as getting patents for the QuickLoad and TeleTrack "no ladder" curtain exchange cubicle track solutions. KleenEdge's solutions have helped many healthcare facilities dramatically reduce operational costs, while having peace of mind knowing that their curtain exchanges are compliant and deliver the highest standard of care for their patient's safety.



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