

HIGH-RISK TOUCHPOINTS AND SURFACES



OR Sustainability Expert

FIRST CASE

KAREN GOELST
CEO & FOUNDER OF KLEENEDGE

First Case OR Sustainability Expert™:

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The key to targeted disinfecting is to attack touchpoints. Disinfect wherever bacteria or pathogenic organisms find a ready food source or organic matter and moisture. Sinks, computer keyboards, restroom fixtures--all provide happy hunting and breeding grounds for microbes, but so do privacy curtains in the Pre-Op and Post-Op areas.

Aseptic technique is a standard set of healthcare practices that aim to eliminate the transfer of germs. The proper use of aseptic technique should prevent Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs), which are a significant concern that can lead to consequences for both patients and healthcare facilities as Surgical Site Infections (SSIs).

Patients with SSIs require a longer time in the hospital, more nursing care, additional dressings, and, possibly, readmission to the hospital and further surgery. The combined direct and indirect costs of treating SSIs are extremely high.

Healthcare professionals receive specialized training in aseptic technique practices. Clean technique is much easier to achieve, and it involves limiting the number of germs in a patient's vicinity.

Privacy curtains are high-risk touchpoints that cannot be disinfected like hard surfaces. These curtains pose a risk of contaminating the hands or gloves of those providing patient care. Pathogenic organisms can survive on curtains for months. A program of exchanging these highly touched/contaminated surfaces should be developed and records of the exchange maintained. Tracking curtain exchanges with protocol software to validate exchange compliance is key to risk mitigation.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Karen at 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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