

# PEEL-OFF MATS OR THE FLEXI MAT?

Test shows that choosing the correct cleanroom mat can remove 99.9% \*of foot and wheel contamination, and potentially save companies up to 25 dumpsters of environmentally harmful waste per year.

Effective contamination control in manufacturing, processing and changing areas can have an impact on many aspects of your business. Contamination of cleanrooms can interrupt production, reduce product yields and in serious cases compromise a company's profits and reputation.

That is why many industrial laboratories and manufacturers in the pharmaceutical and life science sectors, food service providers, and electronic component assembly areas, all use cleanroom mats to contain the spread of foot and wheel-borne contamination.

If the entry point to your cleanroom does not already have a contamination control mat you should definitely consider one. Up to 80% of contamination to critical areas is spread on the shoes and wheels of those entering these critical areas; a risk to your business that could easily be rectified with the right solution.

## Testing the performance of the mats

Dr Caroline Clibbon, a senior biologist at GlaxoSmithKline, tested peel-off and Cleanroom Flexi Mats and found a number of differences between the two solutions.

The tests showed that:

- There was a 50% drop in the performance of the peel-off mats, because it saturated when too many people were stepping on it. To maintain effective performance the peel-offs had to be frequent.
- Severe decontamination limitations were observed for wheeled traffic too, because the size of the peel-off mats does not allow for three full wheel revolutions on the mat. The peel-off mats were also found to stick and wrap around the wheels and eventually stop the trolley or cart completely on the mat.

Another study, commissioned by a peel-mat manufacturer, showed an issue with particles being shed during the rip-off process; An average of 215,000 particles were released back into the atmosphere during each rip-off.

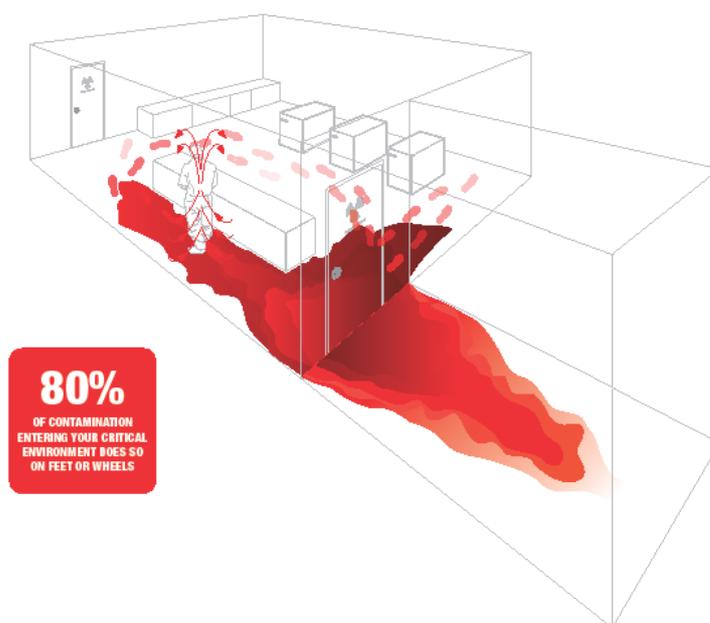
## The Cleanroom Flexi Mat

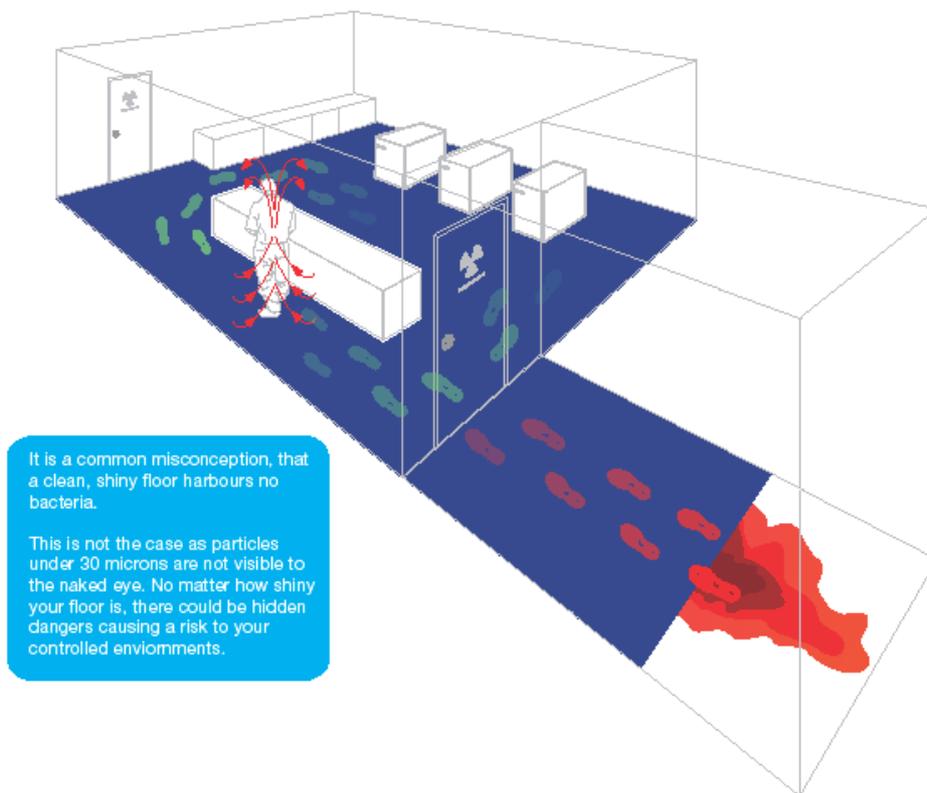
Another type of cleanroom mat is the washable Cleanroom Flexi Mats, which are made with a silver ion-based antimicrobial surface. This additive is proven to inhibit the growth of many different types of organism, including MRSA and *Escherichia coli*. Cleanroom Flexi Mats are better at decontaminating feet and wheels than their disposable counterparts. Tests show that the cleanable silver ion-based antimicrobial surface removes up to 99.9% of contaminants. The larger dimensions accommodate heavier footfalls and allow wheel-based traffic to make the required three wheel rotations, without peeling up, getting caught or stopping the trolley.

Berendsen Cleanroom Services has recently tested its new cleanable Cleanroom Flexi Mats with selected customers and the user feedback is very positive. Cook Medical trialed the mats for 2 weeks and reported that:

“Everybody thinks [the Flexi Mat] works great... It does not stick to wheels or fold like earlier mats have tended to do.” Cook Medical’s cleaning staff reported, “They were very easy to clean.” In conclusion, facility manager Stig Agerbo notes, “All in all it has been a very positive trial, with a positive result.”

Below are images of floor level contamination before Cleanroom Flexi Mats have been installed, and then after. Cleanroom Flexi Mats is the go to solution to simplify your businesses cross contamination issues.





## Better performance with a cleaner conscience

On top of the questionable performance of peel-off mats and problems with wheel-based traffic, the use-and-discard solution adds extra pressure to companies' waste management, not to mention the environment. Each sheet removed from a peel-off mat generates a 20-cm ball of environmentally harmful waste. It might not seem like much on a day-to-day basis, but over a year it adds up to between 8 and 25 dumpsters filled with unnecessary waste that must be handled and discarded safely. Cleanroom Flexi Mats, on the other hand promise to be more effective. They are cleanable and with a lifetime of 3-6 months, only have a minimal environmental footprint.

For more information, please contact us at [info@berendsen.no](mailto:info@berendsen.no).

\*GSK. <http://www.dycem-cc.com/sites/default/files/Caroline-Clibbon-peel-off-comparison.pdf>