

BE ALERT

To This Cleanroom Threat

Did you know that reusable protective apparel may not be meeting your cleanroom standards after it's laundered?

Here's what a recent test found:

100%

of the used sterile reusable garments tested showed a decline in BFE after washing.

The average BFE of reusables drops

25%

after laundering.

Fabric degradation is visible at the sub micron level, and is enough to allow

BACTERIA

to penetrate the material.

The more times the garment is processed, the bigger the

DECLINE IN BFE.



On the other hand, KIMTECH PURE* A5 single-use apparel provides the highest rating

95% BFE.



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The Proof

To demonstrate how each of these two cleanroom apparel choices perform in the lab, we covered a container with a swatch of reusable garment material - and another with a swatch from KIMTECH® PURE A5 fabric.

The containers were then sprayed with an aerosolized form of Staphylococcus Aureus bacteria. After 24 hours, the material was removed and the number of colony-forming units of bacteria were counted to measure the amount of bacteria that penetrated through to the test medium. The result:



Full Protection Vs. Compromised BFE

What does a 25% drop in BFE really mean? It's comparable to 1 out of 4 workers not wearing sterile garments in the cleanroom. And keep in mind that 5 million particles greater than .3 microns are generated just by walking.

Why don't you know about the drop in BFE? Because cleanrooms typically get test data based on new reusable garments - but not after those garments been washed and sterilized repeatedly.

Consider the High Cost of Contamination

Shutdowns, recalls, loss of life - just one cleanroom contamination event can be catastrophic for your company. The average cost of dealing with contamination action events at a site in the course of a year is **\$3.1 million.** (2012 PDA Environmental Monitoring study).

Ask Yourself

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When was the last time you saw data that proves the BFE of your reusable apparel is still acceptable?

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Knowing the BFE of reusable apparel drops significantly after just one washing, how much has your BFE dropped after multiple washings? Can you afford the risk of using unpredictable reusables?

Find out more about the KIMBERLY-CLARK PROFESSIONAL® apparel solution that delivers reliable, predictable protective performance for your cleanroom. We can help you with:

- Risk mitigation
- Process improvement
- Increased donning efficiencies
- Customized implementation

Contact your KIMBERLY-CLARK PROFESSIONAL® Representative or go to: www.kimtech.com/sterilebundle

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