

HOMES & GARDENS

**HOW TO
SLEEP BETTER**
COLOURS, LAYOUTS,
FURNITURE,
BEDDING AND TECH
— ALL YOU NEED
TO KNOW

Create a sanctuary

INTERIORS TO INSPIRE — COSY, CONSIDERED AND CHIC

ALL IS CALM
DECORATING
WITH GREEN
10 STEPS TO A
HYGGE HOUSE
WHERE TO SHOP
FOR WELLNESS



**SMART
STORAGE**
THE MOST STYLISH
WAYS TO BRING
ORDER TO YOUR
LIVING ROOM

THE CLEAN KITCHEN

A WHOLE HOST OF NEW MATERIALS ARE KEEPING THE COOK SPACE HYGIENIC

WORKTOPS As the centre of home life, the kitchen usually sees more foot traffic than any other room in the house. Concerns about hygiene, especially following the pandemic, have made us re-evaluate our approach to cleanliness in the room where we prepare and eat food, and manufacturers have responded accordingly. Some of the latest high-performance worktop materials, such as ultra-compact surface Dekton, have near zero porosity. 'It prevents water and other liquids from being absorbed, which makes cleaning easy while offering protection against bacteria,' says Laura Davie, marketing manager at Cosentino. Other hygienic worktop materials include stainless steel — long a favourite in professional kitchens.

CUPBOARD DOORS 'A new generation of high-tech materials makes it possible to create cupboard doors and drawer fronts that are especially easy to keep clean,' says Fabiana Scavolini, CEO of Scavolini. 'Fenix NTM is one such material, which is fingerprint proof, water-repellent and resistant to mould, making it perfect for hard-working family kitchens.' It can be wiped down with any household detergent and its structure is such that any small scratches can be removed, leaving no place for dirt to hide. There are other high performance man-made materials designed for use on door fronts, including porcelain, with non-porous characteristics that make them less likely to harbour germs.

WALLS AND FLOORS As part of the drive towards cleaner interiors, some manufacturers now offer tiles with antibacterial protection, such as the

Puro porcelain wall and floor tile range by Marazzi. 'A silver ion additive is incorporated into the tile production process before firing at 1200°C, so that it is an integral part of the product,' explains Tina Clark, showroom manager, Marazzi. 'It is a permanent treatment that guarantees constant antibacterial protection over time.'

SINKS 'With proper care and cleaning, all sink materials are hygienic,' advises Jo Sargent, sales and marketing director of Franke UK. That said, some materials have added antimicrobial treatments, such as Franke's Sanitized technology used on its Fraganite sinks, which is designed to inhibit the growth of bacteria and microbes by 99%. 'This technology provides homeowners with the peace of mind of enhanced hygiene protection,' she adds. Some sink materials have natural antibacterial properties, including those made of copper, and the glazed fireclay sinks made by Shaws of Darwen.

TAPS AND BINS When your hands are covered in dough, it's useful to have a touchless tap, so that no flour, grease or other ingredients get transferred to the handles when you turn on the water. 'The touchless tap is one example of a product designed to make time at the sink simply easier, cleaner and more efficient,' says Ian Sanders, product manager of Blanco UK, which offers its Senso range of hands-free mixers with intelligent motion sensors that activate and deactivate the water flow as required. Other hands-free innovations include the Hailo foot-operated opening system for use with built-in waste bins, from Halcyon Interiors. 📺

SOURCEBOOK: PRODUCTS WITH ANTIBACTERIAL FEATURES

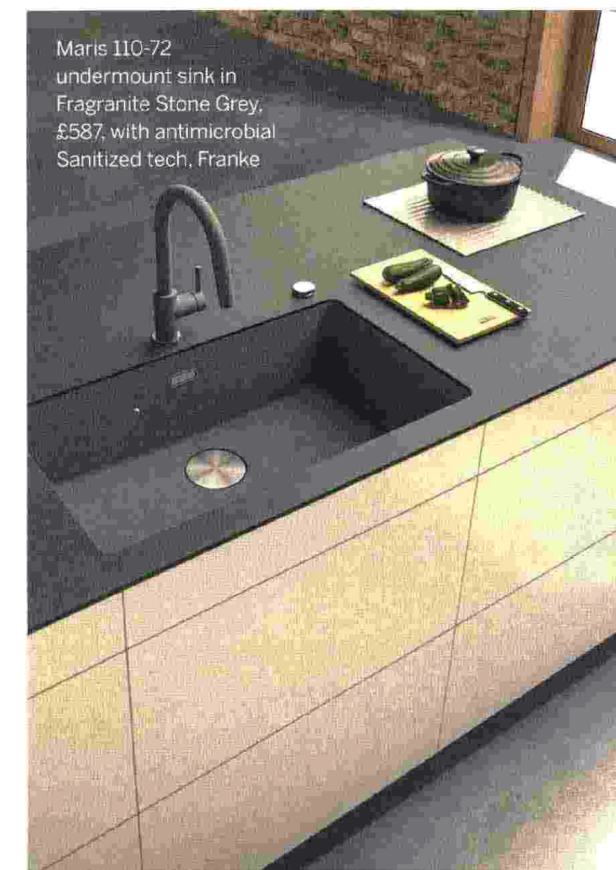
CAPLE
The Di653 fully-integrated dishwasher, £1,063, has a hygiene setting to sanitise bacteria at 70°C and an antibacterial filter system. caple.co.uk

ROIDMI
The X30VX dual-purpose cordless vacuum and hard-floor cleaner, £599, features an antiviral and antibacterial silver-ion air filtration system. roidmi.uk

HAIER
The HTF-540DP7 multi-door fridge freezer, £1,399, has T-ABT technology in the fridge's air flow to eliminate up to 99% of bacteria. haier-europe.com

ALUSPLASH
This aluminium splashback material is grout-free, antibacterial, non-porous and easy to maintain. It costs from £109 per 900x600mm panel. alusplash.com

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS



FEATURE AMELIA THORPE