FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ScrubSwitch™ Sealed Switches

Why is designing a switch for cleaning so important?

Hospitals clean and disinfect high touch surfaces like patient room switches frequently to control the spread of illness. Sealed ScrubSwitch devices stand up to rigorous cleaning and sanitizing schedules. The CDC recommends disinfecting high touch surfaces to reduce Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs). Over 75,000 people a year fall victim to diseases spread in hospitals.

What makes ScrubSwitch switches so cleanable?

ScrubSwitch devices are the first switches designed to withstand the rigors of strict medical cleaning protocols and solutions. The 3R rated switch module is 100% sealed against exposure to liquids and installs in a standard electrical box. The switch is protected from cleaning personnel over-cleaning with fluids and sprays. Allowing no liquids to enter the switch mechanism enables years of service. And unlike toggles, the completely smooth wallplate has no openings or screw areas where bacteria can hide and grow.

Can disinfectant spray be applied directly onto the switch?

Cleaning protocol for all electrical products advise spray to be applied to a cleaning cloth, then wiped onto the product.

What cleaners and disinfectants can be used?

ScrubSwitch devices have been tested with most common hospital cleaners in use like bleach, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol/Quat and phenols. Long term testing by Hubbell indicates many years of use with no discernable change to the plates surface, finish, or color.

Are ScrubSwitch devices antimicrobial?

The wallplate cover has an antimicrobial additive, which helps reduce the growth of bacteria, however, this does not eliminate the need to clean. The CDC recommends proper cleaning. There are pros and cons of using antimicrobials.

Can ScrubSwitch™ devices be activated by any “touch?”
Proximity sensing technology allows users to simply tap on or off, like a phone. The technology doesn’t require skin contact, so it works with a latex gloved hand, or an elbow in a shirt sleeve. That helps reduce the transmission of viruses and bacteria.

How does the antimicrobial work?
ScrubSwitch plastic plates have an additive which uses silver ions. These bind to bacteria and disturb the cell wall, preventing reproduction.

Can I replace a 20 amp switch with a ScrubSwitch sealed switch?
ScrubSwitch devices are rated 10A/120V or 8A/277V, and ½ hp. As long as the amount of lighting on the circuit does not exceed these ratings, they can be used as replacements.

Can ScrubSwitch devices be used with LED lighting?
ScrubSwitch switches are rated for 30,000 cycles for use with LED, compact flourescent, standard fluorescent, incandescent, and motor loads.

Can ScrubSwitch switches be used in a 3-way or 4-way applications?
Yes, all ScrubSwitch devices have a traveller yellow wire. This should be used when a 3 or 4 way is required. For single pole use, simply cap off the yellow wire.

Why do you need a neutral wire with ScrubSwitch devices?
ScrubSwitch sealed switches are electronic, and as such are energized, ready for operation.

What happens if the power goes out?
ScrubSwitch devices are designed to return to their prior state. If the light is on when power fails, they will come on when power is restored.

Why are there two wallplates, stainless steel and plastic?
For personal preference. Some facilities like stainless steel for its impact resistance and long term durability. Others like plastic for its non-conductive insulated value and white look.

Why are you using the on/off symbol for electronics, instead of words?
Universal usage of the symbol applies to more facilities across North America. We do custom markings by request.

Where can ScrubSwitch switches be installed?
Install ScrubSwitch devices in any high touch and public areas where cleaning is required to reduce the spread of germs. Other than the rating, there are no limits on placing and using these switches.

Can a ScrubSwitch sealed switch be wired hot?
The switch should not be wired hot. Like all electronics, this may damage the switch.

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