

# TECH SHEET: BIO-PRUF™



The purpose of this bulletin is to explain what the Bio-Pruf™ certification mark is and how to properly describe its features and benefits to customers.

## What is Bio-Pruf™?

Bio-Pruf™ certified products are specially formulated with anti-microbial additives that resist mold, mildew and algae growth on the paint film, and inhibit the growth of bacterial odors. “Anti-microbial” is defined as any means or mode of restricting growth or spread of microbes.



## What are microbes?

Microbes are microbiological organisms that can be seen only with the aid of a microscope. There are two types of microbes: harmless and harmful (to humans). The harmful microbes that cause human disease are specifically defined as germs. So, all germs are microbes, but not all microbes are germs. That is why the US EPA allows the use of the term “microbes” on paint labels, and places restrictions on the use of the term “germs” because it implies human health claims.

## What are acceptable phrases to describe Bio-Pruf™?

- “It is mold and mildew resistant.”
- “Inhibits growth of molds that can cause discoloration of the paint and generate bad odor.”
- “The dried film resists stains by mold.”
- “It is mildew resistant — it extends the useful life of the paint by controlling deterioration caused by mildew.”
- “It improves indoor air quality reducing odors.”

## What are unacceptable phrases to describe Bio-Pruf™?

- “It is antibacterial.”
- “It is bactericidal.”
- “It kills germs.”
- “It reduces the risk of cross-contamination from bacteria.”
- “It controls allergy-causing microorganisms.”
- “It improves indoor air quality through the reduction of infectious microorganisms.”

## How does Bio-Pruf™ work?

The anti-microbial protection of Bio-Pruf™ is integrated into the product during the manufacturing process. It covers the entire contact surface. When microorganisms come in contact with this shield, the advanced technology of Bio-Pruf™ will inhibit the microbes from surviving and reproducing on that surface, keeping the paint film free from harm caused by bacteria, fungi or algae for an extended period.

## Where is Bio-Pruf™ most beneficial?

Any residential, commercial or institutional building can benefit from the use of a Bio-Pruf™ certified product. Seventy-five percent of consumers are very likely to do something to prevent or treat the problem of mold or mildew in their homes. (source: Rohm & Haas Antimicrobial survey, December 2004).

## Which Dunn-Edwards® products currently incorporate Bio-Pruf™?

Bio-Pruf™ certified products include all our EVEREST®, SUPREMA®, EVERSIELD® and SPARTASHIELD® paint lines.

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