

# Shoe Sole and Floor Contamination: A New Consideration in the Environmental Hygiene Challenge for Hospitals



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[Environmental Hygiene](#), [Transmission Prevention](#)



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*Editor's note: This is the first in a series on fomites in the healthcare environment that are under the radar but deserve renewed attention.*

It sounds like the beginnings of a riddle: What do we wear and walk on daily but never truly think about, especially in terms of pathogen transmission? Shoe soles and healthcare facility floors are the workhorses of the environment, and yet their capacity for aiding and abetting infectious agents remains unclear. Recent research seems to confirm what common sense already tells us -- that items which contact the floor are contaminated and could serve as vectors; despite daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces such as floors, it has already been shown that bacterial and viral contamination returns rather quickly.