

BEHR® COPPER FORCE™ Paint FAQs

Q: What is BEHR® COPPER FORCE™ Paint?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint is an EPA-registered virucidal[†] and antibacterial[‡] interior paint. It is designed to kill 99.9% of viruses[†] and bacteria[‡] within two hours of contact on the painted surface and lasts for up to six years. It is available in Eggshell and Semi-Gloss finishes.

Q: How does BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint work?

A: Powered by Corning® Guardiant® antimicrobial copper ion technology, BEHR COPPER FORCE paint continually eliminates viruses[†] and bacteria[‡] on painted surfaces via contact killing. When viruses and bacteria land on the painted surface, the copper ion will destroy the lipid membrane/protein coat/cell membrane, making them non-functional.¹



Q: What types of viruses and bacteria will BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint provide protection against?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint has been tested and proven effective against SARS-CoV-2, Feline calicivirus (EPA proxy for human noroviruses), Staphylococcus aureus (commonly known as Staph), and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. Feline calicivirus is a non-enveloped virus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a gram-negative bacterium. Both of these categories are at the higher end of the spectrum of hard-to-kill viruses and bacteria.²

Q: Can BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint be classified as a disinfectant?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint does not meet EPA's efficacy standards to qualify as a stand-alone disinfectant. However, EPA has determined that this product can provide additional layer of protection against viruses[†] and bacteria[‡] when used in conjunction with an EPA-registered disinfectant. BEHR COPPER FORCE paint is only intended as a supplement to and not a substitute for standard infection control practices. Users must continue to follow all current infection control practices, including those practices related to cleaning, sanitization, and disinfection of painted surfaces. The painted surface material has been shown to reduce microbial contamination, but does not necessarily prevent cross-contamination.

Q: What certifications and conformance does BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint have?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint is registered with the EPA (EPA Reg. Number: 32273-10). It meets and exceeds Master Painters Institute (MPI) performance standards and satisfies the three tiers of GREENGUARD® certification: GREENGUARD Certified, GREENGUARD Gold, and GREENGUARD Formaldehyde-Free. The GREENGUARD Formaldehyde-free certification is the most stringent of the three certifications and GREENGUARD Gold status is especially relevant in school and healthcare applications.

Q: How long will the virucidal and antibacterial properties in BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint remain effective?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint will continuously protect against viruses[†] and bacteria[‡] for up to 6 years as long as the integrity of the paint film is maintained and in good condition, and the product is made one part of a comprehensive infection control and hygiene program.

[†]SARS-CoV-2 and Feline calicivirus (EPA proxy for human noroviruses)

[‡]Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Q: Will BEHR® COPPER FORCE™ Paint contribute to development of antimicrobial resistance?

A: Antimicrobial resistance is the ability of microorganisms to develop immunity to the antimicrobial products that are designed to inhibit or kill them. BEHR COPPER FORCE paint derives its virucidal[†] and antibacterial[‡] properties from a copper-based material invented by Corning. Studies have shown that copper presents a low probability of developing antimicrobial resistance. Copper and its alloys have been used throughout centuries of history without evidence of full antimicrobial resistance being developed.³

Q: What colors can BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint be tinted to?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint can be tinted to a curated color collection of more than 2,000 colors from the BEHR color palette. The untinted base will exhibit a brownish hue, which is the effect caused by the copper material. As a result, clean & vivid colors and some of the lightest off white colors are not available with this product.

Q: How does BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint compare to other BEHR® Interior Paints?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint provides the aesthetic appeal and performance that you have come to expect from BEHR premium interior paints, but with the added benefit of killing viruses[†] and bacteria[‡] on painted surfaces.

Q: What surfaces can BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint be applied on?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint is recommended for application to properly prepared new or previously painted surfaces, such as drywall, concrete, masonry, wood, metal, and other common building materials.

Q: How is BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint applied?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint can be applied by brush, roller, or airless spray.

Q: Can I clean my walls after painting them with BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint? If yes, what is the preferred method?

A: Walls and other surfaces painted with BEHR COPPER FORCE paint can be cleaned after allowing the paint to cure for at least 14 days. Periodic cleaning to remove dirt and stains is recommended and necessary for good sanitization, as well as to assure the effective virucidal and antibacterial performance of the surface. The appropriate cleaning agent depends on the type of soiling and the measure of sanitization required. The preferred cleaning method is to use a soft damp cloth or sponge and a mild detergent solution (a small amount of dishwashing liquid in water). Gently wipe the soiled area (using the least amount of pressure) until the stain is removed and follow by rinsing the surface with clean water. Do not scrub the surface as this can actually cause the stain to spread. Do not use harsh or abrasive cleansers or pads, which can scratch, burnish, or damage the paint film. DO NOT USE OXIDIZING CLEANERS/DISINFECTANTS, SUCH AS BLEACH AND HYDROGEN PEROXIDE, OR ENZYME-BASED CLEANING SOLUTIONS AS THEY WILL CAUSE DISCOLORATION AND REDUCE THE EFFICACY OF THE SURFACE.

Q: Where can I buy BEHR COPPER FORCE Paint?

A: BEHR COPPER FORCE paint is exclusively available on homedepot.com or contact a BEHR PRO® Rep to order.

[†]SARS-CoV-2 and Feline calicivirus (EPA proxy for human noroviruses)

[‡]Staphylococcus aureus (Staph) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Q: How do I report false or misleading statements about BEHR® COPPER FORCE™ Paint?

A: In the event of false or misleading third party statements or publications made concerning BEHR COPPER FORCE paint product, please visit behr.com/copperforce and REPORT the issue.

References

1. Róžańska, A. et al. Antimicrobial effect of copper alloys on Acinetobacter species isolated from infections and hospital environment. *Antimicrob Resist Infect Control* 7, 10 (2018). Retrieved January 15, 2022 from <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-018-0300-x>
2. Field Summary of the Disinfection Hierarchy Workshop. (2016, February 23). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Pesticide Programs. Retrieved November 26, 2021, from https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-02/documents/dh_final_summary_of_workshop_exploration_of_the_disinfection_hierarchy_meeting_summary_final_docx_2_4_16.pdf
3. Arendsen, L. et al. (2019). The Use of Copper as an Antimicrobial Agent in Health Care, Including Obstetrics and Gynecology. *Clinical microbiology reviews*, 32(4), e00125-18. Retrieved February 18, 2022, from <https://doi.org/10.1128/CMR.00125-18>