



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER – A QUICK EDITORIAL

Well all the children are now back at school. Normally when this happens the weather takes a turn for the better and indeed the past few days have been lovely. There is concern that with the schools back and the change in the seasons that Swine Flu will really take off. Good hand hygiene is still viewed as the best way to prevent the spread of Swine Flu. In this month's newsletter we have some statistics on the impact that Swine Flu is likely to have on businesses, along with all the regular features.

PRODUCT NEWS: Kitchenmaster have a new product available in stock - Pinegel non-buffable. You will all know that the Lemgel floor cleaner is available in a buffable and a non-buffable format, well now the Pinegel floor cleaner is the same. The Pinegel buffable contains some essential oils to give the floor a high gloss finish when it is burnished. The Pinegel non-buffable on the other hand is a great cleaning & maintenance product for the floor and can also be used as a general purpose cleaner. Both the MSDS and the Technical sheet are available to download from the website if you wish to read some more about it.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter the pack size of Reload no.10 Washing up liquid concentrate has changed from 6x2Lt to 4x2Lt to keep it in line with the rest of the Reload range. To coincide with this we have designed a new label:



EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS:

- Next years ISSA / INTERCLEAN Amsterdam will be taking place on 26th-29th April 2010. It is one of the industry's biggest shows and is attended by thousands of visitors.

SWINE FLU: The lead time for hand sanitising gel a few weeks ago was longer than normal due to the very high level of demand. However we have caught up with this demand and we currently have both the 4x5Lt and 4x2Lt pack sizes of gel in stock. The 300ml bottle with pump and the wall mount brackets are also available.

As two thirds of businesses indicate that swine flu is already within their organisations, research from international law firm Eversheds, that took place during July and August 2009, reveals the impact of the pandemic on UK businesses and the scale of contingencies in place for an Autumn escalation.

- 72% of employers report swine flu absenteeism
- 41% of businesses do not have a contingency plan in place
- 38% anticipate loss of revenue due to the pandemic

The survey of more than 420 businesses and organisations across the UK, from a number of different sectors with between 1 and more than 3000 employees, indicates the majority (72%) have already suffered absenteeism due to swine flu. The findings reveal widespread concern over the potential future implications of employee absenteeism, with 38% of businesses believing they will lose revenue and one in five (21%) indicating they expect to have to close or part close premises.

Further key findings from the research are as follows:

- **Sanitation:**
 - 87% of businesses have introduced general sanitation provisions
 - 75% distributing information leaflets
 - 61% using antibacterial sanitisers
 - 22% having a new or revised hygiene policy
 - 13% have introduced no such provisions
- **HR measures:**
 - 86% have already put in place HR-related measures to address the issue
 - 70% requiring employees to stay away from work when infected
 - 28% introducing increased home and other flexible working
 - 20% offering paid leave for employees to contain an infection
 - 14% have put no HR policies in place
- **Threat**
 - The majority of businesses (49%) see the threat of an escalation in swine flu as one of a number of priorities
 - 38% of businesses believe they stand to lose revenue if swine flu escalates
 - 26% view the threat as a high priority
 - 25% view swine flu as a low priority
- **Future plans**
 - 41% have no overall contingency plans in place
 - 21% may shut down infected workplaces temporarily
 - 38% have committed to increasing home and flexible working
 - 30% will spread key worker skills and knowledge
 - 22% will ban on non essential travel

AND FINALLY... Scientists have designed a plant filtration system that enables you to drink your own shower water! After you've washed in the 'eco-shower', the water runs down into a series of filters, which include plants such as reeds, rushes, water hyacinths and lemnas that are growing around your feet, as well as sand and more conventional filters. One of the team, all of whom are graduates from a French national design school, said:

"We tried to combine the pleasure of taking a shower with the satisfaction of recycling water. We wanted the recycling process to interact with the use of the shower. Using a natural filtering principle called phyto-purification, the bathroom becomes a mini-eco-system by recycling and regenerating the wastewater. The plants have been proven to be able to remove the chemicals from your shampoo."

At the moment there isn't a prototype available for inspection but there has been a lot of interest from potential purchasers.