

The logo for SteriTouCh, featuring the brand name in a white serif font with a registered trademark symbol. The text is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially enclosed by a white arc that curves from the top left towards the bottom left. The background is a solid dark blue with several large, overlapping, semi-transparent circles in a lighter shade of blue, creating a modern, clean aesthetic.

SteriTouch<sup>®</sup>

An introduction

# Welcome!

This is where you will find out all you need to know about the process of adopting SteriTouch® protection to improve your products, and discover what makes us so different to other suppliers.

SteriTouch® was launched in 2003, when owners Nick Corlett and Huw Durban spotted a gap in the market for a UK based antimicrobial brand - somewhere that their technical backgrounds and polymer knowledge could set them apart

Today SteriTouch® is the go-to UK brand in antimicrobial technology, partnering with companies across the globe. We lead innovation in this sector, most notably as the only antimicrobial supplier running research and manufacturing operations on-site. Providing solutions where others have failed has since become our trademark.

This guide should cover the basics when it comes to adopting antimicrobial technology, and also provides information about the other services and products we can offer which can benefit your business.

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## Process

These are the most commonly tested organisms because they are a classic example of a gram positive and a gram negative bacterium. Once we've achieved good results against these, we know that the likelihood is we can get good results against almost any bacteria. There are instances where our customers want performance against a certain organism and we can do that too (cost on request). It's also important to tell us if you want specific efficacy against mould, as that may mean a slight change in formulation.

We ask for some of your material as we've got all the equipment in-house to create your samples, so that we can develop a solution without having to disrupt your own manufacturing commitments. If you'd prefer a sample from us to try it out yourself, that's fine too.

Our focus is on creating a robust solution for your products, and we try to make it as easy as possible for you by carrying out all the development work at our premises, to keep disruption to you at a minimum.

Initially, we need to know the material you are using. We will often ask for a sample of your product's base material so that we can carry out compatibility testing in-house. From there, we will mould various samples of test-ready swatches. These will include the appropriate SteriTouch® additive at our recommended addition rate, which we're confident will achieve the best results. The samples will then be sent to an independent laboratory for initial testing against MRSA and E.Coli.

# Capabilities

## PRODUCTION

Our in-house facilities are unrivalled. We're based in a 13,000 square foot factory which hosts several extruders and moulding machines, so production can take place in-house where we have complete control over what goes in and what comes out. This makes us completely unique in the market.



We mould test swatches with your material at our premises, and we know exactly what's in them. The only thing we don't do in-house is antimicrobial testing – we feel strongly that this should be truly independent so you can be completely confident in the results.

Full R&D facilities allow us to develop new formulations and solve the majority of issues, so if you haven't found a solution or you've been given one which didn't work, then come to us and we'll do our best to help.

## TECHNICAL TESTING

In-house we have an extensive technical testing laboratory, which is also unique to us in this sector. Weathering stations allow us to subject products and materials to extremes in temperature, UV exposure and humidity. Your product may stand up to laboratory conditions, but if it's designed to be used outside, how will it fare after 10 years' exposure to UV?

Tensile testers and impact testers using both the Charpy and IZOD methods are in place to identify any weaknesses in the material. Making sure the characteristics of a base material are not affected by an antimicrobial is extremely important, especially in environments such as food production where plastic contamination could potentially occur.





## OTHER ADDITIVES

Certain pigments can cause issues for antimicrobials, which is why we need to know if you're changing the colour of your antimicrobial product after it's been tested. With our in-house facilities, we can successfully mitigate almost all of the problems that can arise through the use of antimicrobials, including discolouration and poor clarity.



We also need to know what else is important in your material, such as fire retardancy or WRAS approval. People are often shocked to hear that introducing any additive, including an antimicrobial, can completely negate flame retardants, and the material will need to undergo repeat testing. The same applies with WRAS approval; testing needs to take place after the additive has been incorporated.

# Factors that can affect antimicrobial efficacy

## MATERIAL

Despite what you may have been told elsewhere, there is very rarely an 'off-the-shelf' solution when it comes to antimicrobial additives. This is especially true when it comes to polymers, where a minor change in material or grade can have a huge negative effect on antimicrobial performance. ABS is a perfect example; two similar grades from the same manufacturer can yield very different results.

Imagine finding out years down the line that the 'off the shelf' antimicrobial you've been paying for all that time has never worked. That's why we always test in your material even if we already know it will be effective. That's also why, if you're planning to change material or grade, you must let us know.

## TEMPERATURE

The standard temperature for independent laboratory testing is 35 degrees celsius. This represents a nice warm environment, to encourage bacterial growth. Real life products, however, don't necessarily adhere to laboratory conditions. That's why we try to find out as much about your product as we can. If it's going to be consistently kept in the cold, then we can test at a lower temperature. This is a very important factor; we want to prove that your antimicrobial product will perform reliably in the conditions in which it's going to be used.

## Anti-Counterfeit measures

There are many ways in which we can help you to protect the integrity of your antimicrobial products.

Your product may be manufactured overseas, and since SteriTouch® additives are invisible, some of our customers like the reassurance that comes with using a detectable marker. Products that carry our brand should be consistent and continue to work as well as they did when originally tested. That's why we can put measures in place to ensure the additive is included.



A simple laser detectable additive is one option, where a laser pen can quickly show whether the antimicrobial is present. We may include it ourselves for quality control, or you can choose this type of covert detectability as an added extra. If you have any doubts in your manufacturing, or any concerns over counterfeiting, this is a good solution.

Another option to guarantee results where manufacturing is concerned, is to use one of our ready qualified compounds. Available in a range of base materials, the antimicrobial is dosed to the optimum proven addition rate for excellent consistency.

We may also periodically ask you to send us a sample product for antimicrobial testing.

# Regulatory advice

Inevitably there are regulations involved when using biocides, and antimicrobial additives are no exception. Without them, unregistered additives and chemicals with health concerns such as triclosan would be flooding the market and undermining the technology.

## UK AND EUROPE – BPR

The regulations surrounding the use of antimicrobials in European products have been quite ambiguous in the past. However, this was addressed with the introduction of the Biocidal Products Regulation in 2013, which saw the European Union attempt to harmonise the placing of these products on the market.



This is a positive step in clearing the market of unregulated biocides which could be dangerous, but it is a very slow process.

We keep our customers updated with any change in regulations, including if and when labelling requirements come into force.

# SteriTouch®

The SteriTouch® co-brand is a popular way of promoting your antimicrobial products. What's more, we offer it to our customers to use for free, without any associated licensing fees. We do ask that you sign our trademark agreement; our brand is one of our greatest assets, so the agreement is in place to protect it from misuse.

## Using the SteriTouch® brand

The SteriTouch® brand has been consistently proven to be widely associated with hygiene, and we'll supply you with all you need to take advantage of it in order to help you sell your products.

We can provide you with logos to use in your tooling and on your products and literature, and we'll do everything we can to help you make your antimicrobial products a success. We offer sales materials to help your customers understand the benefits of the technology, and can help with any other marketing support should you need it, including social media and PR.



Did you know?

We also have several other brands!



SCOPIC

Our SCOPIC range of masterbatches and compounds is designed for the production industry. Using SCOPIC additives in plastic and rubber will impart metal and X-Ray detectable properties into your end product, which enables even small fragments of items such as spatulas and pens to be identified should they reach the production line. SCOPIC additives can also be combined with SteriTouch® antimicrobial protection.



Kondukt is our brand of thermally conductive polymers. These can bring many additional benefits to the design process and can be used in wide ranging applications across many industries, including automotive, electronics and LED lighting, to dissipate heat where metals are currently the only option. We have also developed electrically conductive, anti-static and EMI/RFI shielding compounds.

**SteriType®**  
MEDICAL GRADE KEYBOARDS

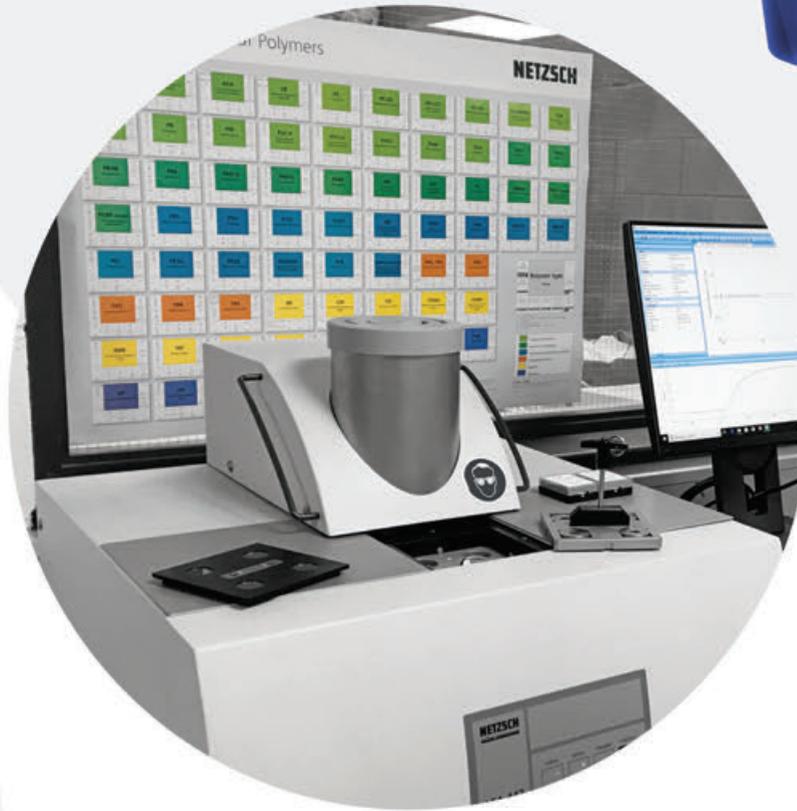
We have been manufacturing antimicrobial keyboard covers for many years, but last year saw us launch our own brand of infection control keyboards to great success. The SteriType® branded keyboard has an integrated silicone cover and is washable and waterproof, perfect for hygienic environments such as hospitals and dental surgeries.



# Understanding the technology

We're always pleased to meet up with our customers, as it allows us to really get a feel for your business and products, and to help in ways you might not realise. For local projects we can often be present for production trials, and we're often able to advise from a different perspective.

Understanding antimicrobial technology is important when trying to sell it, so we'll be happy to equip you with anything you need to make a success of your product. If you want to spend some time at our facility in South Wales in order to increase your knowledge of SteriTough®, then just let us know.



If you're not quite at that stage yet, and just want to come down and see what makes us different before you make a decision, we'd be delighted to show you. We're passionate about the difference we can make to our customers' products, and we love a challenge! Even if you've tried and failed to find a solution elsewhere, we have the in-house expertise and facilities to develop an alternative, with no disruption to your own production commitments.

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