



Pioneering a Hygiene Revolution

Sanitary and hygienic design trends are significant to the evolution of food safety tools. Remco and its Denmark-based partner, Vikan, have been at the leading edge of those innovations for decades. Now, with food processors and consumers demanding even higher levels of hygiene and safety, Vikan introduces its patent-pending Ultra Safe Technology (UST). This innovation in brush construction goes beyond the current standards and provides an unmatched level of hygienic design.

Evolution of hygienic tools

Remco, founded more than 30 years ago in Zionsville,

Ind., started with just two basic, plastic food-safe products—tubs and shovels. Now, Remco and Vikan offer a comprehensive line of food-safe cleaning and material handling products.

Cristal Garrison, Remco's director of training and development, says that early sanitary and hygienic tools fell into two primary categories. "They were largely heavy, expensive, stainless tools that could damage other equipment [but were safe], or they were non-food safe tools commonly found at hardware stores."

From the beginning, Remco and Vikan tools evolved, offering improved efficacy, durability and cleanliness. One such evolution in hygienic tools was the move from porous wood block brushes to solid plastic block brushes. This simple change helped reduce the danger of contaminants in the brush head. Plastic block brushes also introduced the potential for adding different colors into tool design, supporting the practice of color-coding.

"When color coding became an accepted technique to mitigate risk in food processing environments, Remco was quick to expand its color offerings, and our partners at Vikan were among the first to offer 'total color' solutions, where brooms and brushes had colored blocks and colored bristles," says Garrison. "This approach is more expensive in both produc-



tion and inventory, but provides a more sound solution. With proper implementation in your color coding plan, you will always know where a contaminant comes from and if a tool is damaged through misuse.”

The squeegee was another innovation in cleaning tools. Historically, double foam squeegee blades were more effective than their single blade counterparts for all-around liquid sweeping. However, they created inherent hygiene challenges with particulate matter lodging between the two blades. Single blade squeegees answered the hygiene



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issues, but were costly because they required replacing the entire tool head.

In its answer to color coding, cost-savings and hygiene, Vikan developed the Double Ultra Hygiene squeegee. This innovation combined a plastic block, total color and a single cartridge housing two blades. The blades, separated by approximately 0.5 inches, maintain excellent liquid sweeping ability while providing an open and cleanable space between blades.

Remco and Vikan effectively replaced an inherent threat to food safety with a purpose-built tool that is hygienic, cleanable and allows for the use of colors, further improving food safety programs.

The next evolution of food safety tools

Ultra Safe Technology (UST) is Vikan’s latest initiative for creating the most secure, safe and hygienic cleaning tools for the food and beverage industry.

UST’s unique brush design completely seals bristle bundles in the brush block during the molding process. This construction method reduces the risk of foreign body contamination from bristle loss, while reducing the risk of bacterial, physical and

chemical contamination. UST brushes are not just uniquely engineered; they are also rigorously tested and compliant with HACCP requirements, FDA (CFR21) and EU regulation—EC 10/2011.

Industrial product testing conducted by Vikan shows that bristle retention in traditional drilled and stapled brushware could be highly variable. If one bristle dislodges, the whole bundle may become loose. Testing also shows many rough surfaces between the bristles of resin-set brushes. These surfaces increase the likelihood of chemical or biological contaminants remaining trapped in the brush head. The new UST technology solves both problems.

“Our partners at Vikan have raised the bar to an all new level with the design of UST brushware that quite literally molds the bristles directly into the block of the brush. The result is a product that is all one material, is easier to clean and is also more effective at cleaning,” says Garrison. “It really is revolutionary, or evolutionary, depending on how you look at it.”

Are your cleaning tools food-safe? Become a part of the hygiene revolution and increase food, plant and employee safety with Remco and Vikan color-coding tools. **RP**



▲ **TOP:** The Double Ultra Hygiene squeegee combines a plastic block, total color and a single cartridge housing two blades for the ultimate cleaning solution.

ABOVE: UST improves hygiene with a unique brush design that completely seals bristle bundles in the brush block.