

BY ANTONIA R. BELL



## The Feel-Good Factor

**IN RECENT YEARS** there have been major advancements in fabric innovations and high-tech textiles. One particular branch of this development has been wellbeing. Classed as health, beauty or added comfort aspects that add value to clothing – rather than active or performance wear capabilities such as moisture management - wellbeing features are wide and varying. Some of these are the application

of fragrances or skin softeners to textiles, as well as insect repellents and antimicrobials. Other potential applications include dyes, vitamins, phase change materials, and in specific medical applications, antibiotics, hormones and drugs.

**With so many added benefits to today's apparel, picking out clothing is no longer purely about aesthetics.**

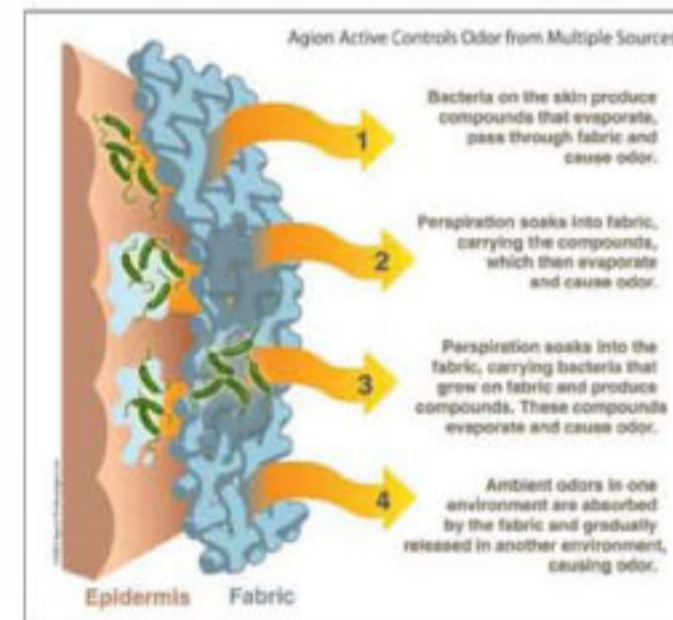
### Agion Technologies (Antimicrobial and Anti-Odor)

Using nature's antimicrobial, silver, Agion's antimicrobial technology provides built-in protection that resists the growth of microbes. The technology operates at the surface of a product through the controlled release of silver ions which attack microbes and inhibit their growth.

Agion's antimicrobial technology incorporates silver ions in a zeolite carrier. The silver ions exchange with other positive ions from the moisture in the environment, implementing a release of silver "on demand". This mechanism delivers only when needed for long lasting effects.

The zeolite crystal carrier is multi-faceted and provides a three dimensional release mechanism that provides the release of silver ions independent of particle orientation in the substrate. Furthermore, the zeolite crystals are randomly oriented and distributed through the surface of a fiber, polymer or coating.

In conditions that support bacterial growth, positive ions in ambient moisture exchange with silver ions at reversible bonding sites on the zeolite. The exchanged silver ions can then control microbial growth.



Silver ions attack unwanted microbes in three ways, preventing the growth of a destructive population. They prevent respiration by inhibiting transport functions in the cell wall, inhibit cell division (reproduction), and disrupt cell metabolism.

According to Agion Technologies, depending on the microorganism, Agion's antimicrobial technology has been shown to initially reduce microbial population within minutes to hours, while maintaining optimal performance for years.

Agion's silver antimicrobial is Cradle to Cradle Silver Certified, giving a third party testament to the environmentally friendly nature of Agion. Additionally, Agion Technologies offer a variety of silver-based technologies to suit various manufacturing and product requirements.

There is also Agion Active, a technology developed to provide intense (industrial strength) defense against odor. The textile treat-



ment handles microbial based odors and ambient, absorbed odors. It is available in a fabric finish, and can also be easily incorporated during the finishing step in the manufacturing process. In addition, Agion has patented a solution to keep white fabrics white during manufacture, with no discoloration. The treatment is compatible with most fabrics, does not impact drape or hand, and can be used in conjunction with other finishes.

Agion Active regenerates its effectiveness with each wash and dry cycle, and is designed to last the useful life of the product.

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