



Filippi 1971  
has introduced antibacterial versions  
of its most used surfaces

## Safe surfaces

Thanks to the multiannual experience matured in the application of different types of surfaces for the furnishing of RVs, Filippi 1971 launches a range of products that guarantee a 99,9% reduction of the bacterial load, as a concrete response to the Covid-19 emergency.

Words Andrea Cattaneo

Filippi 1971 has always been keen on introducing new concepts and materials in the RV sector, but in recent years the Italian company has really managed to amaze the professionals for its ability to offer innovative products alongside the traditional and well established production of laminated panels. In this moment of medical emergency, Filippi 1971 confirms his resourcefulness and solid know-how, launching a series of products on the market designed to make environments safer, and RVs are no exception.

The Research and Development division of Filippi 1971 implemented the already well-known VittEr® product making it compliant with ISO 22197/2011: the new VittEr®+ offers a 99.9% reduction of the bacterial load of the surface. The normal VittEr® is already a high-performance fur-

nishing material suitable for food contact: it is a formaldehyde-free compact laminate, scratch-resistant, fire-retardant and water-resistant, perfect for the construction of kitchen tops, chopping boards and bathroom surfaces. Its high mechanical resistance allows the creation of solid slabs with reduced thickness, while from an aesthetic point of view it can be customized from the core to the surface color. VittEr®+ is an enhanced version of the company's signature product that helps make environments healthy.

Filippi 1971, however, has extended the range of surfaces with antibacterial properties also to wood-base laminated panels: HPLs and finish papers with antibacterial properties are now offered for the furniture of motorhomes and caravans.

*"Once the emergency phase is over, – says*





Filippi 1971 has developed a range of design dividers using its digital printing

Francesca Filippi, marketing manager of Filippi 1971 – *the RVs will perhaps be one of the few ways to spend safe holidays, with limited contagion risks. To meet the manufacturers' needs, we have introduced a line of products with antibacterial surfaces. We want to offer valid solutions to the RV sector, thinking of both vehicles meant for the sales and intensive use for rental*”.

#### Customizable dividers

Being active in a wider and wider bunch of sectors, Filippi 1971 has converted a production department to meet the needs of those who must work in times of Covid-19. Thanks to the antibacterial properties of VittEr®+ and the laminate and finish paper surfaces, even combined with plexiglass elements, Filippi 1971 can offer safe solutions for RVs but also for various types of work environments: hospitals and medical areas, offices, as well as catering and trade activities.

*“We are launching on the market a range of products that comes to the aid of the managers of various commercial and pro-*

*duction activities, – explains Ivo Bolis, sales manager of Filippi 1971 – for example we have created a series of dividers to space people to avoid contagion risk in public areas. Managers of restaurants, hotels and shops have already contacted us, but also motorhome manufacturers did, in order to get some to solutions to be used in their companies, to distance employees in the offices to guarantee workplace safety. Filippi 1971 can boast extreme production flexibility, therefore we can also produce minimum quantities. We can customize the products upon customer request, both in the dimensions and the surface decoration”.*

VittEr®+ comes in many core and surface color options, and finish papers and laminates have endless combinations. Filippi 1971 can play with its digital printing and joinery to customize separators for offices and restaurants, from the simplest to more elegant and sophisticated ones, also designed by renowned designers. Compared to the standard versions, the new antibacterial products come at a small extra cost.

## Managing the Covid-19 emergency

How will the RV sector manage and overcome the emergency phase? We heard Francesca Filippi's opinion (we collected her opinion before going to press, in early May).

*“At the moment, in Europe, there is great uncertainty in the RV sector, – says Francesca Filippi, marketing manager at Filippi 1971 – there are manufacturers who would like to continue with the 2019-2020 ranges, while others would rather introduce new, improved models. As per the fairs, as of today we still don't know whether the Düsseldorf fair, as the most international exhibition in the industry, will take place or not and what will happen to the other national fairs. There may also be the quarantine problem:*

*will the operators around Europe need to move much earlier than the show dates? Or will the fairs be only for national companies and operators? Of course this situation makes us think about alternative ways of presenting our materials and solutions. One could think of the main fair in Düsseldorf every two years, with the presentation of the real news, and annual fairs in a reduced version, to exhibit and sell vehicles. In my opinion, a biennial fair would be an advantage for the RV industry: manufacturers and suppliers would have more time to work on real product news. Until now, companies have never had time to stop and think and plan something new because they were forced to run the restyling of their ranges in a short time”.*

## Company Profile

Founded almost 50 years ago and active in the furniture industry ever since, FILIPPI 1971 firmly fits into the recreational vehicle world in 2000, starting to supply laminated lightweight panels to motorhome and caravan manufacturers around the world. In 2013, the partnership with the entrepreneur Giorgio Levoni opens to a new phase of consolidation and expansion that sees, among other initiatives, the launch of a new production line using the digital printing for the customization of the panel surface. At the end of 2016, the relentless activity of FILIPPI 1971 R&D delivers VittEr®, the new generation compact laminate which is highly customizable in the design and texture, is scratch-, fire-, and water- resistant and 100% formaldehyde-free. At the beginning of 2017 a new building is set up exclusively for the manufacturing of complete furniture kits; the cabinet making has then been completed with the production of curved doors and any kind of special components, taking the range of action even broader than ever. The RV industry is the core business for FILIPPI 1971 but its activity is extended also to alternative niche markets which always push them to innovate, thanks also to the “FILIPPI Lab” R&D department recently enlarged and equipped with an autoclave featured in the composite products area. Today FILIPPI 1971 delivers to more than 20 countries worldwide.

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