grip. If the grip is intended to be exchanged or taken off, this is performed by drilling out the nipple. For this purpose, a depression is provided on the outer side of the grip in the region of the nipple, in order to be able to put a drill in place.

The known metal-doped door grip has a tubular form and can be pushed onto correspondingly formed tubular door handles. It is disadvantageous that many door handles have a form that deviates from the form of a tube. Moreover, in the prior art, the door handle and the metal-doped grip represent a unit, since interlocking engagement of the door grip on the door handle is necessary. So far, use of the known door handle with a door grip has not been adopted in practice. The reason for this is likely to be, in particular, that it would be necessary to replace existing door handles, which usually have a form that deviates from the form of a tube and moreover do not have an engaging opening for the interlocking engagement of the door grip.

Also known from practice are fibrous and textile sheet-like materials that comprise ionic copper. These materials are used for example as an inner liner in handbags. The aforementioned fabrics are not suitable for use as a covering because they quickly become soiled, cannot be easily cleaned and, on account of their woven structure, offer the possibility of pathogens firmly attaching themselves there in such an amount that, even with a good virucidal or bactericidal effect, not all the pathogens can be deactivated or killed.

In a first aspect, there is provided a covering intended for being applied to the surfaces of objects in public facilities and/or public means of transportation, the covering being capable of preventing the transmission of infections and the covering comprising a covering material having an active substance with a virucidal and/or virostatic and/or bactericidal and/or bacteriostatic and/or fungicidal and/or fungistatic effect, the covering material being intended to be applied externally to surfaces of the objects, the covering material being flexible and able to be adapted to the external form of the object and being produced from a single-layered or multi-layered sheet-like material having at least one layer containing a plastics material, and the active substance being incorporated in the outer layer of the covering material, which outer layer in the state of use of the covering represents the gripping side for users, wherein the covering is in the form of a band and can be wound around the objects, wherein the covering material is elastically stretchable and wherein the covering material comprises a plastics material shrinkable by the action of heat and formed as a shrink film and wherein the covering material is intended for being shrunk onto the objects.

In a second aspect, there is provided a method for applying a covering comprising a flexible covering material to the surface of an object in public facilities and/or in public means of transportation, for the purpose of preventing the transmission of infections, wherein the method comprises the use of a covering comprising a covering material having an active substance with a virucidal and/or virostatic and/or bactericidal and/or bacteriostatic and/or fungicidal and/or fungistatic effect, the covering material being intended to be applied externally to the surfaces of the object, the covering material being flexible and able to be adapted to the external form of the object and being produced from a single-layered or multi-layered sheet-like material having at least one layer containing a plastics material, and the active substance being incorporated in the outer layer of the

covering material, which outer layer in the state of use of the covering represents the gripping side for users, wherein the covering is in the form of a band and is wound around the object, wherein the covering material is elastically stretchable and wherein the covering material comprises a plastics material shinkable by the action of heat and formed as a shrink film, and wherein the covering material is shrunk onto the object to secure the covering material to the object.

In a third aspect, there is provided the use of a covering for objects positioned in public facilities and/or in public means of transportation, for the purpose of preventing the transmission of infections, the covering comprising a covering material having an active substance with a virucidal and/or virostatic and/or bactericidal and/or bacteriostatic and/or fungicidal and/or fungistatic effect, the covering material being intended to be applied externally to surfaces of objects, the covering material being flexible and able to be adapted to the external form of the object and being produced from a single-layered or multi-layered sheet-like material having at least one layer containing plastic, and the active substance being incorporated in the outer layer of the covering material, which in the state of use of the covering represents the gripping side for users, wherein the covering is in the form of a band and can be wound around the object, wherein the covering material is elastically stretchable and wherein the covering material comprises a plastics material that can be shrunk by the action of heat and is formed as a shrink film and is intended for being shrunk onto an object.

The object of the present invention is thus to provide a covering of the type mentioned at the beginning which can be used for objects of a wide variety of forms, in particular in public facilities and means of

Patent claims:

1. A covering intended for being applied to the surfaces of objects in public facilities and/or public means of transportation, the covering being capable of preventing the transmission of infections and the covering comprising a covering material having an active substance with a virucidal and/or virostatic and/or bactericidal and/or bacteriostatic and/or fungicidal and/or fungistatic effect, the covering material being intended to be applied externally to surfaces of the objects, the covering material being flexible and able to be adapted to the external form of the object and being produced from a single-layered or multi-layered sheet-like material having at least one layer containing a plastics material, and the active substance being incorporated in the outer layer of the covering material, which outer layer in the state of use of the covering represents the gripping side for users,

wherein the covering is in the form of a band and can be wound around the objects,

wherein the covering material is elastically stretchable and

wherein the covering material comprises a plastics material shrinkable by the action of heat and formed as a shrink film and wherein the covering material is intended for being shrunk onto the objects.

2. The covering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covering material has, on its underside facing the objects, an adhesive layer, wherein a protective layer is provided on the adhesive layer.

3. The covering as claimed in claim 2, wherein the adhesive layer comprises a re-releasable adhesive and wherein the protective layer comprises a siliconized layer.

4. The covering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covering material is wound up and stored on a roll.

5. The covering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covering material comprises at least one metal as the active substance.

6. The covering as claimed in claim 5, wherein the metal comprises at least one of copper and silver.

7. The covering as claimed in claim 1, wherein the covering material has, at least on its side facing away from the objects, an active layer containing the metal.

8. A method for applying a covering comprising a flexible covering material to the surface of an object in public facilities and/or in public means of transportation, for the purpose of preventing the transmission of infections,

wherein the method comprises the use of a covering comprising a covering material having an active substance with a virucidal and/or virostatic and/or bactericidal and/or bacteriostatic and/or fungicidal and/or fungistatic effect, the covering material being intended to be applied externally to the surfaces of the object, the covering material being flexible and able to be adapted to the external form of the object and being produced from a single-layered or multi-layered sheet-like material having at least one layer containing a plastics material, and the active substance being incorporated in the outer layer of the covering material, which outer layer in the state of use of the covering represents the gripping side for users,

wherein the covering is in the form of a band and is wound around the object,

wherein the covering material is elastically stretchable and

wherein the covering material comprises a plastics material shinkable by the action of heat and formed as a shrink film, and wherein the covering material is shrunk onto the object to secure the covering material to the object.

9. Use of a covering for objects positioned in public facilities and/or in public means of transportation, for the purpose of preventing the transmission of infections, the covering comprising a covering material having an active substance with a virucidal and/or virostatic and/or bactericidal and/or bacteriostatic and/or fungicidal and/or fungistatic effect, the covering material being intended to be applied externally to surfaces of objects, the covering material being flexible and able to be adapted to the external form of the object and being produced from a single-layered or multi-layered sheet-like material having at least one layer containing plastic, and the active substance being incorporated in the outer layer of the covering material, which in the state of use of the covering represents the gripping side for users,

wherein the covering is in the form of a band and can be wound around the object,

wherein the covering material is elastically stretchable and

wherein the covering material comprises a plastics material that can be shrunk by the action of heat and is formed as a shrink film and is intended for being shrunk onto an object.