

provides maximum odour control by dispensing precise neutralizing fragrances to help create a pleasant bathroom environment. The Orkin AutoFaucet provides water only when it's needed. This faucet can save up to 70 per cent in water usage costs and aids in thorough, healthy hand washing to prevent



The AutoFlush automatically flushes toilets after use, helping to prevent an unsanitary bathroom environment.

cross-contamination. And unlike earlier infrared systems, the breakthrough "Surround Sensor" technology detects users from any angle, guaranteeing activation the first time every time. The company also offers the OneShot Automatic Soap System to help reduce soap costs.

An important feature in washrooms is the capability to deal with human blood products. Here, Orkin offers Hygienic Disposal Units that can handle all manner of items. For example, with Saniserv feminine hygiene products, such as sanitary napkins and associated waste, are discreetly and effectively handled and disposed.

Automated hands-free devices tend to be more efficient than old style faucets and valves and tend to be more sanitary as well. Further, with this automation comes lower cost and resource usage, factors that spell out greater green attributes, a growing demand in washroom facilities.

"About a year ago our customers began



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Public washrooms in a hotel can be just as important as the bedrooms and can create a positive feeling about a hotel.

asking us to source more 'green' products for them to use in the bathroom," says Jeff Wells, vice-president North America, Hotel Solutions Inc. The company is best known for its presence as a supplier of televisions to the hotel market, but now has branched out. "We sought simple solutions to help prop-

erties save money and use less resources. Towards this end we came forward with the Dyson Airblade, a hand dryer that has turned the world on its ear. This device uses a Hepa filter and blows clean air on hands, a major improvement from traditional dryers that suck up air from the bathroom and are usually placed above waste receptacles making them even less hygienic. "The Airblade uses the same motor as the award winning Dyson vacuum cleaner and provides a very high velocity stream of air to dry hands," he says, adding that the machine is one that uses no heat element and works through friction to heat air. "The Airblade costs just \$30 to operate for a year with 200 uses per day making it one of the least expensive hand dryers on the market. Consider that a traditional hand dryer works much like a home hair dryer that is inexpensive up front to buy but costs a lot to operate.

On another front Hotel Solutions offers the Evolve shower head, a product that, while not typically used in a public restroom, is worth discussing from a water conservation point of view. Evolve systems offer all benefits of typical systems with good water pressure combined with greatly reduced water flow, resulting in saving in dollars and ecology.

"At a U.S. Casino where we did a recent installation we discovered that the property achieved a saving of 17 million gallons over one year," says Wells, remarking that in the U.S. many states now charge more for sewage than for incoming water, a fact that is making water conservation top of mind across the board in properties from public areas, to the kitchen to the guest rooms.



HandGiene's RFID sensing system monitors hand washing. By using proprietary soaps or hand sanitizers that take 15 seconds of friction to dissipate, the system ensures compliance with HACCP and hand-hygiene documentation. The system includes documentation and easy-to-use reporting software.



Courtesy of Shutterstock

Another interesting product to make its way to hotel bathrooms is the Hand Genie. This device ensures that staff have thoroughly cleaned their hands. According to the company the system uses RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology to track employees to show that they washed their hands. This allows operators to state 'Clean Hands Work Here'.

While this system would typically find itself in the staff washroom attached to the foodservice section, by having it in a public facility the general public can see that the hotel and its staff take hygiene very seriously. "It's a very simple technology that provides an elegant solution to problems such as H1N1," says Richard Verdiramo, vice-president, HandGiene Corporation. He reports further that the system is very compact at just seven inches wide by 16 inches tall and offers a larger soap bottle than competitors at the same cost.



The public is demanding greater cleanliness and safety in public washrooms.

Lastly, but certainly not least in importance is that public washrooms must also demonstrate complete accessibility to those with disabilities. Universal design bathrooms must include and surpass the minimum requirements of current standards and guidelines and should offer a barrier-free facility to help eliminate the old-fashioned "handicapped" stigma.



The needs of an adult seated in a wheelchair are primarily accessibility, clear floor space for entrances and exits, and the proximity of equipment. With universal design accommodation for people using walkers, canes or crutches is also achieved. Further, mounting height and turning space recommendations, accessory location, direction of reach, obstructions, counters and the needs of children are part of the criteria.

Not surprisingly there is a lot of complexity to creating a set of public bathrooms that meets up with civic and federal regulations as well as aesthetic and hygiene demands from the general public.

The best time to consider the public washrooms is early in the design process during a new build. Properties that pay attention to their public facilities can say much that is positive about the entire hotel.

The Dyson Airblade blows clean air on hands as opposed to dryers that suck up air from the bathroom.

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