

HANDS OFF

As we enter peak cold and flu season, health advocates will be stressing the importance of proper handwashing to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses. However, the hygienic benefits of hand washing are often completely nullified. After the recommended 20 second

hand wash, hands often become re-contaminated by using the faucet handle(s) to turn water off. Bacteria and germs are then moved to the paper towel dispenser and other surfaces.

The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA reports that after using a public restroom, a person's hands can host as many as 200 million bacteria. It all adds up to people not wanting to touch anything in public restrooms. Yet, improved hygiene is just one of several reasons that have increased the demand for automatic or touchless restroom fixtures.

For engineers, contractors and facility managers, water conservation is the primary reason for specifying touchless fixtures. Touchless fixtures can save up to 30 per cent of an average commercial facility's water consumption since the water shuts off automatically when a user's presence is no longer detected. These products also allow for easy activation for individuals with disabilities and comply with accessibility guidelines.

According to a recent survey of International Facility Management Association members, touchless fixtures are the "must have" technology for restrooms. The majority of facility managers say they already have automatic air fresheners and many have also installed infrared flush valves, sensor-operated lighting and hands-free faucets.

Price is always a factor in restroom

**1. Long-reaching Spout**

The polished brass 591T electronic faucet from Delta Faucet Company features plug-and-go installation. The faucet has second-generation technology designed to reduce false activation of running water and a spout designed to prevent splash back. **Circle #180**

2. Self-diagnostic Electronics

Moen's Model 8301, FreeHand series electronic lavatory faucets are each equipped with two automatic, adjustable shutoff sensors and slow-closing solenoid valves. The faucets feature adjustable, infrared sensor eyes, water-resistant, low profile electronic enclosures and vandal-resistant brass construction. **Circle #182**

3. Battery-free System

Bradley's light-powered, Express lavatory system converts restroom lighting into energy, which provides a steady stream of power to the sensors and valves that control the hand washing fixture's activation. The system can be powered by both natural and normal room-level lighting. **Circle #183**

design but fixtures must also be easy to install. Installing touch-free fixtures is generally no more difficult than installing manually operated fixtures. Sensor-operated faucets, for example, feature above-deck electronics which means that they install as easily as mechanical faucets.

Traditional touchless fixtures feature infrared sensors that trigger activation when a user enters the detection zone. An important consideration for installing these fixtures is how the sensor will be powered. In the past, fixtures have used either battery power or optional transformers to activate the solenoid valve.

New fixtures are incorporating a self-

adjusting detection zone that allows the sensor to automatically adjust to the surrounding environment. This eliminates problems of reflective surfaces, soap scum build-up or different user skin tones interfering with the fixture's performance.

Capacitive sensing technology is another new innovation. Capacitive sensing creates an omni-directional detection zone that surrounds the entire spout of a faucet. It eliminates the clapping and wild gestures that we have all done when having trouble finding "the sweet spot" to initiate water flow. Vandal-resistance is another key benefit

since all of the mechanical and electrical components are concealed.

There is a new emphasis on products that help make touchless fixtures more environmentally friendly. Light-powered lavatory systems are the latest technology. These products utilize solar or ambient restroom light to power the valves which turn on the water. The fixtures eliminate the need for electrical hook ups. Lavatory systems with photovoltaic cells integrated into the top of the solid surface unit do not require batteries which helps reduce maintenance.

Most facility managers are aware that unclean restrooms can create negative perceptions of the entire building. With educated planning, facilities can avoid these perceptions and increase restroom sanitation by reducing the number of surfaces users come into contact with. Using a maze entry rather than a door, automatic flush valves on urinals and toilets, as well as specifying touchless faucets, soap dispensers and hand dryers are some of the



4. Gooseneck Spout

Equipped with a vandal-resistant aerator, Kohler's Touchless electronic faucet features single-hole mounting and comes with a five-foot power cord and plug-in power supply. This faucet is ADA-compliant. **Circle #184**

5. Touchless Flushing

Sloan's Intelli-flush retrofit sensor technology is designed for installation in any of the company's Flushmate pressure-assist systems. The alkaline battery-operated, automatic flushing system includes an override button and comes equipped with all the components needed to upgrade a manual flushing system.

Circle #185

easiest and most cost-effective ways to ensure that restrooms stay clean and sanitary.

HPAC

■ *Todd Platta is the assistant product manager for faucets, lav decks and lavatory systems at Bradley Corporation. For more information, call (800) 272-3539 or visit www.bradleycorp.com.*

RATE THE ARTICLE!

Will this information be useful? Please circle the appropriate number on the Reader Postcard. Thank you.

VERY USEFUL 109
USEFUL 110
NOT USEFUL 111

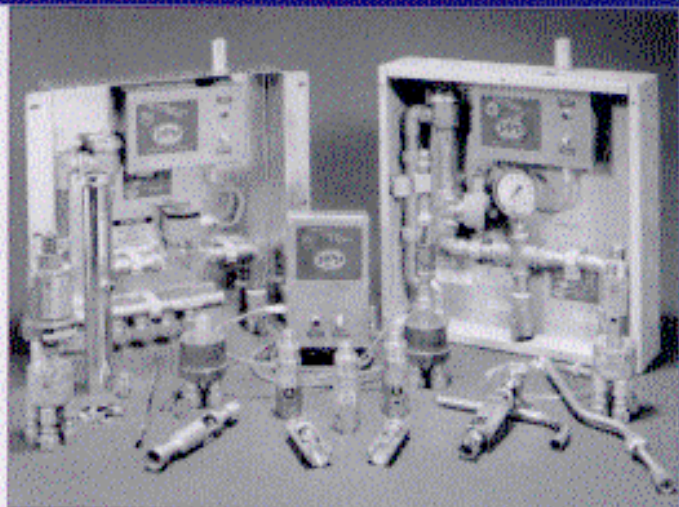


TRAP PRIMING?

www.pppinc.net

BRING IT ON!

40 MODELS
PRESSURE DROP
ELECTRONICS
FLUSH VALVE
WATER CLOSET
UNDER LAV
38 ACCESSORIES



"Specify with confidence - Install with pride."®

WATER CONSERVATION OUR FIRST PRIORITY

PRECISION PLUMBING PRODUCTS

40 Years of Manufacturing Excellence

Division of JL Industries, Inc.
Airport Business Center 6807 N.E. 79th Court Suite E
Portland, Oregon 97218 (503) 256-4010
FAX: (503) 253-8165



Rev 12/00

Circle #22