

SCHOOL BATHROOM CLEANING

SIDEBAR: Cleaning systems for washroom specialists

by Allen Rathey

Cleaning crews using team cleaning and other methods demanding a high degree of efficiency are adopting processes and tools that enable better washroom cleaning without the need for big-ticket equipment purchases.

One system uses a set of cleaning tools that includes a sprayer on a belt (an ergonomic belt-mounted sprayer that makes cleaning surfaces faster and less tiresome for workers), color-coded microfiber cloths, and microfiber flat mops for wall/vertical surface/floor cleaning.

Other tools in the system include long-handled dusters with disposable dusting sleeves, ergonomic microfiber strip washers and squeegees for cleaning mirrors and walls, lightweight aluminum extension poles for reaching high spots, ergonomic lobby pans, combination floor scrubber/squeegees and swiveling brushes for project work.

Studies conducted by Daniel's Associates, Toronto, yielded data showing a 10.9 percent reduction in time by using microfiber flat mops over conventional mopping.

Other tests show that using microfiber wipes with a conventional disinfectant reduced the bacteria count on counters by 96 percent. On floors, the microfiber flat mopping tool achieved a bacteria reduction of 89 percent compared with 73 percent using a conventional mop. The microfiber mop is lighter and also releases more water than typical mops, enabling more complete rinsing and soil release. Crews also are adopting an integrated “double-bucket” — a single mop bucket divided to keep clean and dirty solution separate.

Tests also found that microfiber mop heads stood up to 10,000 rubbing cycles compared with less than 2,000 cycles for other types of mops, and microfiber wipes successfully endured almost 4,000 washing cycles compared to less than 1,000 for ordinary cleaning cloths (huck towels).

Microfiber technology uses fibers 1/1000 as thick as typical cloth fibers. These small, aggressive strands pick up tiny particles and can reduce the amount of solution and chemical required to clean. Microfiber cloths can reduce the amount of exertion workers need to wash counters, mirrors and fixtures.