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Case Study

Cleaning system helps USC improve efficiency, fight cross-contamination

U SC Medical Center in east Los Angeles is one of the nation's largest--and busiest--public hospitals. In one year, the hospital treats 800,000 patients. It employs 9,000 people. "All the concerns about controlling the spread of infection and cross-contamination are multiplied a thousandfold here," says Bill Walton, the center's director of environmental services. Walton was looking for a better way to clean the hospital's common-area rest rooms, which must be serviced three to four times per eight-hour shift. Traditional methods, with towels and a sprayer, are slow. Because of concerns about cross-contamination, he wanted a system that required very little touching of fixtures and surfaces. Walton chose the KaiWhiz, the smaller version of the no-touch cleaning system from Kaivac Inc., Hamilton, Ohio. The pressure wash system sprays disinfectant solution on everything--floors, fixtures, walls and vents--then vacuums it up. "Because it's a no-touch system, our people don't have to hand-scrub toilets or urinals," says Walton. And cleaning time studies published by the International Sanitary Supply Association indicate that no-touch, spray-and-blow-dry cleaning systems like KaiWhiz are efficient, completing the task up to two-thirds faster than traditional hand-cleaning methods. "Using the KaiWhiz helps eliminate cross-contamination, it's faster and my people love the machine," says Walton. For more information, call (800) 287-1136. Kaivac Inc.

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