

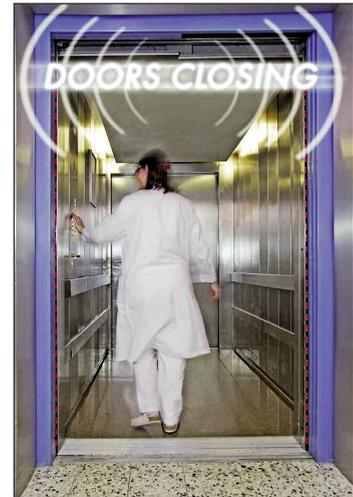


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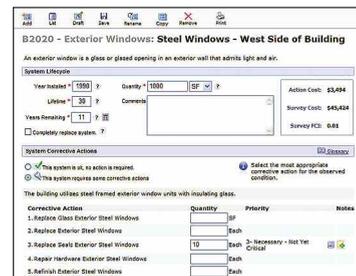
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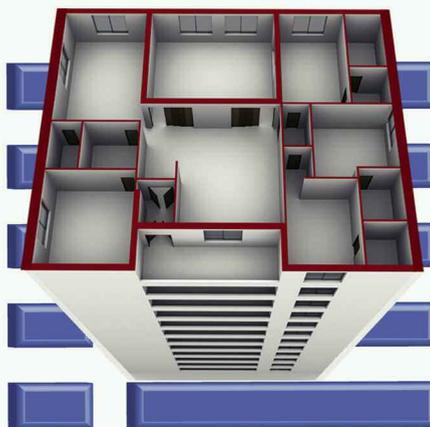
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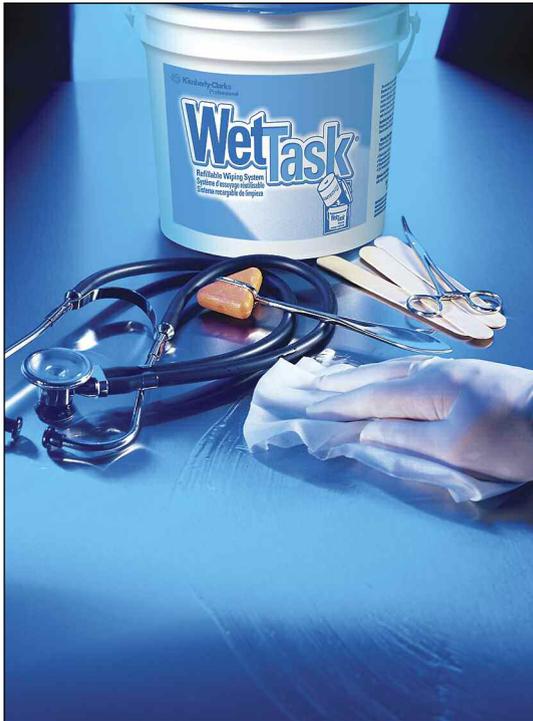
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### IT'S A WASH New system improves laundry unit production

**W**hen Greg Lorenz, manager of Central Dakota Hospital Laundry Inc. (CDHL), Bismarck, N.D., received financing and board approval to replace his existing tunnel washer with a newer and

larger system, he looked to Minnesota Chemical Co., St. Paul, Minn. A distributor for Pellerin Milnor Corp., Kenner, La., Minnesota Chemical had the advantage of a previous, successful relationship with CDHL, having sold CDHL its original Pellerin Milnor seven-module tunnel system, which effectively processed 3.2 million pounds per year of health care goods from two local hospitals over 17 years.

After factoring in production goals and the linen demands of both hospitals served by CDHL, Lorenz chose to replace the "mint condition" tunnel with an eight-module, 110-pound capacity 76028 CBW® tunnel washer, a single-stage press and three 64058 pass-through dryers with 200- to 320-pound capacity. The laundry relies on

a Milnor CONWA weighing conveyor to weigh the goods and introduce goods into the Milnor CBW washer when the system calls for the next load.

In addition to excellent equipment, another vital component of an efficient laundry is proper machinery layout and installation, which allows the tunnel system to perform to its full potential. Consequently, Minnesota Chemical and CDHL worked with Milnor's application engineering department to design the conveyor system and the tunnel system layout.

Once the machinery locations were confirmed, the real challenge began—getting the old system out and installing the new one in under seven days. Throughout the week-long installation (the average tunnel installation takes 14 days), Gary Halloran, Milnor's field and service engineer, worked with four Minnesota Chemical Co. service technicians who came in from both the Iowa and Minnesota branches to meet the strict deadline.

At the same time, Lorenz and his staff worked overtime to process the incoming linen in their three Milnor Q-Series washer-extractors originally installed with the system in 1992. To prepare for the installation, Lorenz arranged to have the installation performed at the time of lowest linen usage of the year. He also met with hospital staffs to encourage them to conserve as much linen as possible,

and he built up the linen par level at the two hospitals.

With teamwork and a plan, Halloran made his deadline with hours to spare. After a few test loads, the new tunnel system's wash quality was approved.

With this new and improved system, the laundry has seen excellent results in utility savings, process times and overall processed linen poundage. In fact, the laundry had to slow the tunnel washer to keep up with the pre-



**FACILITY NAME**  
Central Dakota  
Laundry Inc.

**LOCATION**  
Bismarck, N.D.

**PRODUCT**  
Eight-module  
CBW® tunnel  
washer system



Laundry carts are positioned to catch dry linen expelled from three pass-through dryers.



Dirty linen is loaded onto the weighing conveyor where it is transported to the washer.

sort area. And, since it has switched from a two-stage press to the 50-bar, single-stage press, it takes four to five minutes less per dryer to dry each load. Moreover, the entire laundry's output per hour has increased 8.5 percent since the new tunnel was installed.

The modernized, automated wash-to-dry process and automated flatwork processing ensures overall efficiency and promotes excellent patient care. **HFM**

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