

Rydal Park Cuts Labor with Continental Dependability

Over the course of nearly a decade, a single Continental washer-extractor has handled more than 915,000 pounds of laundry at Rydal Park of PreysbyHomes and Services, a premier assisted- and independent-living community in Rydal, Penn. Spurred by the workhorse machine's dependability—with less than five major part replacements since 1996—Laundry Manager Luke Mason recently added a second Continental to the facility's on-premise laundry. By replacing a hard-mount washer with the soft-mount Continental, Rydal Park expects to save at least \$8,000 per year in labor alone.

Rydal Park's 402 residents produce approximately 10,000 pounds of laundry per week, according to Mason. Everything—sheets, towels, bed pads, gowns, mop heads and personal items—is washed, dried and folded at the facility's on-premise laundry.

The key to getting items clean and boosting production, according to Mason, lies in highly programmable washers featuring high-speed extract. "Using programs properly has helped clean linen with shortened cycles," he says.

At Rydal Park, Mason blends proper programming with automatic chemical injection—a combination that ensures a quality wash every time. The laundry's Continental washers are set up with programs tailored for specific items. By carefully selecting wash variables, Mason has improved laundry production and cut labor. Rydal Park laundry attendants simply select a program number and push start.

"You don't smell the chemicals and bleach in the laundry," says Mason. Better wash quality also helps reduce inventory costs. "Because the Continental cleans better, I don't order as much," says Mason. "Linens last longer."

Like its first Continental investment in 1996—a machine having handled more than 44,000 cycles—Rydal Park's second investment is dramatically impacting the laundry's bottom line. "It's put us ahead." The result should be a savings of \$8,000 per year in cut labor costs and a quick 18-month return on investment. As for the original 55-pound Continental, Mason says, "I can't imagine how many times over it's paid for itself."

healthcare facilities



Kevin Svedine, director of housekeeping and laundry, is pleased with the results since replacing Brandon Woods' laundry equipment with Continental Girbau washer-extractors and dryers. "We're not double-washing, because clothes come out clean the first time," he says.



Laundry Manager Luke Mason of Rydal Park.



Nursing Home Boosts Laundry Production with Continental Technology

"My laundry is running so smoothly I can't believe it," says Kevin Svedine, director of housekeeping and laundry at Brandon Woods of Dartmouth nursing home in South Dartmouth, Mass. Since replacing the home's old hard-mount washer-extractors with soft-mount equipment, Svedine has not only significantly cut labor, gas and utility costs, he maintains that residents' clothes, towels and linens are finally getting clean in one washing. It used to take two.

Now, it takes three employees until 3:30 in the afternoon to complete and fold all of Brandon Woods' laundry. Before the installation of the new soft-mount washer-extractors, it took five employees until 9:30 at night to complete the job, says Svedine.

A 130-bed property, Brandon Woods generates around 3,000 pounds of laundry daily. To handle the load, Belle installed three Continental Pro-Series 55-pound soft-mount washer-extractors and three 85-pound dryers.

"The soft mounts don't require a frame footing," explains Belle. "So, we were able to put them right onto the existing concrete floor. And they can be moved in and out easily when they need to be replaced."

"The washers are saving us money because laundry basically comes out dry," says Svedine. It used to be that Brandon Woods' laundry required two cycles in the dryer. "We used to have to run our dryers double time and they were burning out," recalls Svedine. "Now, our drying time is cut in half because the extraction cycle takes everything right out."

At Brandon Woods, it's no longer necessary to re-wash items like reusable diapers and pads in order to get them clean, says Svedine. Pads for incontinent patients used to need pre-soaking to remove fecal matter. Now they don't.

"We're not double washing because clothes come out clean the first time," maintains Svedine. Plus, through proper cleaning and reduced time in the dryer, Brandon Woods has extended the life of its incontinent pads—from two months to six months, he says.

