

Case Study

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Parker Hannifin – World class manufacturing site goes for greenest hand drying

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Parker Racor operates an employee led system of continuous improvements in many areas including reduction in waste and increasing environmental sustainability. To this end it wanted to replace the paper towel dispensers used in its eight washrooms, as they represent a notable and on-going cost in terms of facilities management and are not considered best environmental practice.

Paper towels require considerable energy in their manufacture and create significant vehicle movements in terms of delivery to, and removal

from, site. They can also create something of a hygiene issue if disposal bins are not emptied regularly.

The obvious move for Parker Racor was to install electric hand dryers, and with so many models available on the market it was decided to complete an objective study of the options. Parker drew up a list of criteria to compare various hand dryers, including: running costs, total life costs, environmental impact, hygiene and drying time.

The last parameter is particularly important on sites where it is likely that there are frequent busy periods, such as the start of a shift, tea breaks and meal times. In this regard the Mitsubishi Electric Jet Towel scored highly because it's drying from only nine seconds, a quarter that of a conventional hot air dryer. This reduces the likelihood of queues developing, and also discourages people from walking away with still-wet or partially dry hands, which can lead to bacterial transfer via door handles and other surfaces.



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Mitsubishi Electric Jet Towel's operating action, of creating a high-speed laminar flow of air, minimises bacterial issues because water is blown off just-washed hands straight into an integral drain. This is in contrast to hot air dryers, which heat large quantities of air to warm up the moisture until it evaporates, thereby making bacteria airborne.

One of Parker's assessment criteria was that of energy use and cost. Mitsubishi Electric Jet Towel's fan is driven by a bespoke 550W-1240W motor, designed to be highly energy-efficient compared to the far larger motors likely to be found in other dryers. In fact the money spent to dry a pair of hands with a paper towel could dry up to 100 pairs of hands with a Mitsubishi Electric Jet Towel!

Looking at the total cost of ownership, Mitsubishi Electric Jet Towel is easy to maintain, requiring little more than the occasional wipe down. It is even surface-treated to be anti-microbial to minimise hygiene issues.

Parker also liked the quiet running and elegant appearance of Mitsubishi Electric Jet Towel, feeling that it helps promote an atmosphere of quality throughout the site.

Fawn Litchfield, the Mitsubishi Jet Towel Business Development Manager says: "Facilities managers and business owners are increasingly aware of their overhead costs and are looking for ways to reduce them, whilst simultaneously reducing their carbon footprint. Many are now undertaking detailed assessments of their energy consumption and generally find that hand drying is an area where significant improvements can be made."

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