

NEW! product
innovations
creating new
cleaning
trends

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The one thing that is consistent about cleaning today is change. Technological advances, health considerations, safety measures, environmental impact, and cost implications are driving product innovation and the implementation of those products in buildings throughout the country. At the ISSA Worldwide Cleaning Conference and Exhibit this past fall, 650 exhibitors demonstrated their latest innovations to more than 16,000 attendees. Let's look at some of the most interesting new green products and trends.

The Ultimate Green Cleaning Chemical

Three different technologies provide cleaning using tap water! Steam vapor systems provide a chemical free process and disinfect. Steam vapor products have been available for many years; however, efficiency, size, and cost continue to make this technology more attractive.

Water electrolysis or ionization creates electrically charged nanobubbles, which attach themselves to dirt particles causing them to become charged and repel from surfaces. This enables soils to be suspended in water and simply wiped away. The manufacturer claims the activated water is strong enough to kill 99.9 percent of bacteria, viruses, and other germs. The Activeion unit, for example, is the size of a spray water bottle, making it very easy to use and refill.

A third technology takes oxygen from the air and safely turns it into ozone (using electricity), then infuses it into regular tap water. While ozone is harmless to humans, it kills up to 99.99 percent of bacteria, per the manufacturer, Lotus Pro, before turning the ozone back to oxygen. Just like the popular oxy-chemical cleaners, liquefied ozone's power comes from the extra atom that oxidizes germs and dirt. No toxins, fumes, or residues—just clean!

Natural Bacterial Inhibitor

Imagine a product that challenges microbial contamination! Tactivex skins and mats can be applied as protective coverings to high-touch and high-risk surfaces to reduce the survival and spread of bacteria without the use of antimicrobials, chemicals, or disinfectants. The patented Sharklet technology inhibits bacterial survival and transfer through its microscopic surface pattern, mimicking the texture of shark denticles, which is inherently unfriendly for the growth and survival of microorganisms. Commercially, this means that the Tactivex products continuously reduce surface bacteria and its spread through human touch transference, and a simple wipe of microfiber is sufficient to clean the skin!

No More Slips and Falls

Safety is of utmost importance in a building and new floor care products can help minimize slip and fall accidents. Slip resistant floor treatments are now available that can be used on multiple types of flooring—including marble, tile, wood, and VCT—that provide a thin, invisible film, which increases slip resistance. New product offerings include green products with third party certification.

Greener, Cleaner, Odorless Waterless Urinals

Waterless urinals are growing in popularity since they save water, save energy, and reduce sewage and maintenance expenses, making them very environmentally friendly! They don't require water to flush (an average per unit savings of 40,000 gallons per year), flush valves, or other control hardware to operate, since they use replaceable cartridges that contain a liquid sealant. Yet, the downside to these waterless urinals is odor, as well as the physical cartridge replacement, not to mention the cost.

A new, innovative "green cartridge" eliminates the odor and reduces cost since the cartridge housing does not need to be changed. Unlike the replaceable cartridges, the permanent green cartridge does not require special chemicals and eliminates the need to purchase and replace disposable cartridges, making it more cost effective. Best of all, it eliminates odors because the green cartridge can be cleaned with water, thereby eliminating the uric acid build-up and odor. Permanent green cartridges are now available for most waterless urinal makes and models.

New green products and the latest technologies can make your sustainable cleaning programs more efficient and effective. How does your cleaning program compare?

Arely Castellón, LEED Green Associate, provides sustainable LEED-based cleaning programs using new products and technologies with SparkleTeam. For more information, visit www.sparkleteam.com. FT