

GSF and Ecolab improve cleaning processes and results through total floor care program



CASE STUDY - PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

BACKGROUND

Zion Elementary School District 6 is a public elementary school system. The District has approximately 2,800 students in pre-K through eighth grade across seven locations in northeastern Illinois.



SITUATION

The motto of the District is "Excellence Without Exception" and this encompasses everything within the District, including the look of the buildings and grounds. Proper floor care was a major concern for the District administrators since the busy hallways and classrooms receive rigorous daily use by hundreds of students, teachers and guests. Administrators were concerned about the fact that the floors were yellowing and discolored from lack of proper care. They could see that floors and baseboards across the facilities had several years of buildup on them. This condition was not the look they wanted for teachers, students and visitors to experience.

They had worked with multiple vendors over the years to help them find solutions to restore the floors and keep them looking good. They did not find any of the services or solutions to provide the desired outcome. The cleaning and maintenance team estimated that the floors had not been fully stripped in more than 10 years. They knew the floors needed to be fully stripped and cleaned but they needed help to complete this process.

They wanted to implement a comprehensive program to tackle this floor buildup issue and also make it easy for the cleaning crew to maintain the floors for years to come. The District wanted to work with people to help them achieve their strategic mission to provide clean and safe facilities and enable them to measure the return on investment (ROI). They needed a partner who provided more than just products but the services to really understand these needs and strive to address them.

"Sustainability, along with making the jobs of cleaning crews safer and easier is very important to us. We definitely have to partner with companies who also strive to achieve these goals."

– Kurt Kuempel, General Manager, GSF

SOLUTION

The District hired GSF. General Manager Kurt Kuempel and Area Manager Yahaira Alvarez partnered with buildings and grounds staff to learn about their challenges and find solutions that best fit their cleaning needs while making the process efficient and easy. "Each client has unique challenges and business concerns, so working closely with each school to make sure we address their specific needs is critical to establishing a successful program," said Kurt.

After learning more about the problems the District had experienced with the floors, Kurt contacted Ecolab to join in the partnership. Together, they introduced a comprehensive floor finish program that offered the product array needed to address each of the floor issues the District had.

They worked with the cleaning team to show them what products to use to deep clean, strip the old, yellow finish, correctly neutralize the floors and then showed them how to properly finish the floors with Ecolab's Phazer™ Mobile Floor Care System.



Technical Account Manager Chris Walter (right) and Ecolab DSDM Tim Kavanagh (left) explain the proper procedures in preparing a floor for the floor finish application.

The team was excited that this program offered product solutions that would truly address the specific needs to strip, clean, refinish and maintain all of their floors and also training to properly and efficiently complete all of the procedures.

They also appreciated how use of the Phazer Back Pack to finish floors increased productivity and helped reduce injury risk.



Tim Kavanagh trains a cleaning team member how to use the Phazer Floor Care System.

RESULTS

Revitalized Floors Throughout the District

The cleaning team was able to efficiently and completely strip and clean the floors and then refinish them. The extensive training and new information has prepared them to clean, maintain and keep their floors looking fresh for years to come. The Administration was happy with the look of the floors as they now live up to the District standards.

Improved Processes

The District was very pleased with Ecolab's ability to quickly and efficiently implement the new program including the Phazer Mobile Floor Care system. Ecolab not only recommended the right solutions to meet the needs of each facility but also established the much desired partnership to provide training for the cleaning crew to help make the overall process of stripping and refinishing the floors quick and easy.



(Left to right) GSF Shift Supervisor Clinton Roby and Area Manager Yahaira Alvarez

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

Increase Productivity up to 73%

Phazer™



9.5 Minutes

Per Coat (1000 ft²)

57 Minutes

Six Coat (1000 ft²)

Mop & Bucket



36 Minutes

Per Coat (1000 ft²)

3 HRS 36 Minutes

Six Coat (1000 ft²)