

Making the Most of a Shrinking Budget

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Given the economy, most Property and Facility Managers are facing reduced budgets, while having to defer project improvements. Certainly from a building maintenance perspective, we are experiencing these budget issues together with our clients. However, there are some “low-cost, high yield” programs that can be implemented in order to provide a “Modified Restroom Make-over.” Who wouldn’t prefer a renovated restroom?! Following are some renovation suggestions:

• Restroom Dispensers

One of the most visible ways to improve the look of a restroom is simply installing new dispensers. At SparkleTeam, we have access to low cost or free dispensers, for new and existing customers. These include toilet tissue, hands free roll-towel dispensers, and foam soap. In addition to providing new, shiny dispensers, most of them offer controlled paper systems which generate less waste, providing the best environmental choice at a low cost. Foam soap is a welcome addition to any restroom, whether hands-free or manual pump, providing a pre-measured amount of soap that prevents waste and soap drippings on the counters.

• Ceramic/Tile Floors

While tile replacement may be out of the picture, regular machine scrubbing on restroom floors will make the floors look cleaner, creating a positive impression on tenants and visitors. This is the best way to ensure the tile and the grout, in particular, wear well and last for an extended period of time. Even a frequency of once or twice per year will provide a noticeable difference. It is also important that floor maintenance is done with a product that will help to extend the “clean look”. Products with hydrogen peroxide are great cleaning alternatives that contribute to a healthy environment.

• Air/Odor Neutralizers

If you’ve had to reduce hours or eliminate the use of a day porter and freshness is a concern, the use of an air neutralizer can help maintain a clean scent, while neutralizing any odor. The newer models are half

the size of the traditional dispensers, which require batteries. Newer models are only five inches tall, last 90 days, and don’t require batteries because they are powered by hydrogen fuel cells. The fragrance is accurately dispensed without the use of volatile organic compounds (VOC), and the refill dispensers are recyclable.

• Hand Sanitizers

Many restrooms now feature a hand sanitizer dispenser next to the interior restroom door, increasing the level of hygiene upon exiting the restroom. It’s a nice touch and sends out a positive statement. Clearly, implementing any of the above suggestions won’t replace the need for a remodeled restroom; however, it will show extra effort in upgrading the current state of your restrooms. At SparkleTeam, we can work with you to start these simple but effective changes today!

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