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Spring 2021

Consider Installing Touchless Plumbing Fixtures In Your Facility

Touchless bathroom fixtures are becoming more commonplace. People breathe a sigh of relief when they walk into a touchless restroom. It gives them peace of mind when they realize they don't have to touch any fixtures. Aside from the obvious reasons in today's environment to consider touchless fixtures, there are a number of other reasons you ought to consider installing touchless fixtures in your facility. Here are just a few:

Clean and Safe: Bacteria and viruses can easily spread from person-to-person through touch fixtures. Today's touchless fixtures work on sensors that detect motion. If a user forgets to flush, a sensor activates the water flow by detecting motion; thus the fixtures turn off when a person exits the bathroom.

Convenience: Handles break and knobs come off. Waving your hand in front of a sensor to activate the water seems like an easier choice.

Energy-efficient: Keeping the water running just a few seconds longer by having to turn off a faucet could waste gallons of water a day. On sink faucets, touchless controls limit the flow of water to only when the sensor detects hands under the faucet. Studies have shown that this feature can help reduce a facility's water use by about 75%. In a large facility, this can amount to considerable cost savings.

For toilets, consider investing in an energy-efficient plumbing fixture that features more flush power and uses less water. You may think a couple seconds of water savings per user is not a lot. However, year after year, the water savings continue to add up. Imagine you own or operate a manufacturing facility, office building or bar/restaurant. The amount of users per day, per week, and yearly could be in the thousands. Keeping each user to a calculated water consumption can save you money.

Vandalism: Touchless fixtures can reduce damage from vandalism because users cannot leave the water running. Handles are also less likely to be broken.

User-friendly: Touchless fixtures are safe and comfortable for people of all ages.



Touchless faucets provide a more sanitary way to wash up in a public restroom. They can also help reduce water usage by about 75%.

continued on page 4



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Speaking Our Language

Dogs understand words at the level of a 14-month-old child, a recent study has found. According to the *Science Focus* website, scientists in Budapest studied brain activity in dogs using electroencephalography, playing recordings of words the dogs knew, along with similar-sounding words and nonsense words that sounded completely different.

The brain readings showed that the dogs could distinguish between words they knew and the nonsense words, but their brains didn't differentiate between familiar words and similar-sounding words—"sit" and "sut," for example. Dogs, like very young humans, don't pay attention to all the sounds of a word. In children, this short attention span disappears as they learn to process different words and expand their vocabulary, at 14–20 months of age. Dogs, however, never progress beyond this point, and learn only about 165 words during their lifetimes.

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



Follow These Not-So-Secret Secrets For Success

A successful career takes hard work, but the secrets aren't very mysterious. You can reach your goals with focus and determination—and this advice from *The Seattle Times*:

- **Pick one positive quality to emphasize.** Assess your strengths and decide which one suits you best. Choose tasks and assignments that let you show off that aspect of yourself. People will associate you with your strongest ability and call on you when they need it.
- **Always have a Plan B.** Not all of your plans will succeed. Although you've got to make your best effort, don't assume everything will go right. Anticipate obstacles and have a fallback option. This will help you stay one step ahead of potential setbacks.
- **Be reliable.** Always finish what you commit to, without excuses. People want to depend on you, and when they know you're going to follow through, they'll call on you more often.
- **Act ethically.** When you're asked to do something unethical or dishonest, decline politely but firmly. Most people will back off in the face of a clear "no." If not, you may be in the wrong job or working with the wrong people.
- **Treat everyone with respect.** From the janitor to the CEO, show everyone the same degree of respect you expect for yourself. You never know whose assistance you'll need, and being nice to people is a good investment in your future.
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions.** If something is unclear, ask for clarification. You'll get in more trouble for making mistakes due to misunderstanding an instruction than by asking questions up front.

"Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live."

—Mae Jemison

Keep Older Loved Ones Engaged During Difficult Times

We worry about our children during the pandemic, but that doesn't mean we should forget our older loved ones. Many are isolated and lonely, which can lead to depression and other health problems. Here's what *NPR* says to keep their spirits up:

- **Stay in touch.** Call them as often as possible. Talk about what you're doing, what makes you happy or sad, and what they're up to. Ask for their advice. This lets people know you're thinking about them.
- **Have a virtual dinner.** Schedule a shared meal via Zoom or another app. Cooking and eating together, even in different houses, can create a feeling of togetherness. Try watching TV shows together, too.
- **Connect to their interests.** Find out what they like to do and share it. If an older loved one likes books but has eyesight troubles that make reading difficult, offer to read a book to him or her, or set up a deal for audiobooks they can listen to.
- **Ask for help.** Just because people are older doesn't mean they're helpless. Often they have useful skills. Ask for recipes of family favorites. Encourage them to sew masks for the family.
- **Go for a walk or drive.** If they're able to go out, take a weekly walk together, or go out for a drive—with proper precautions like masks and social distancing, of course.

Decrease Financial Stress For The New Year

As we begin the new year and the COVID-19 pandemic continues, most of us are worried about money. It's a stressful time, but you can take steps to ensure your financial survival. The *CNB Select* website has this advice:

- **Make minimum payments.** You don't have to pay off debts in whole while your situation is uncertain. Low-priority debts like credit card and student loan bills won't have an immediate impact on you or your family if not paid off right away. Just remember to make the minimum payment to stay current and keep your credit rating healthy.
- **Find new forms of comfort.** Get out of the habit of buying things to make yourself feel better. Find new routines that help you feel in control of your life—making the bed each morning, dressing as if you're going to work even if you're working from home, exercising, doing artwork, or chatting with friends via Zoom. You'll reduce stress while also cutting your outgoing expenses.
- **Enhance your financial savvy.** Use the pandemic as an opportunity to manage your money better. Take a look at what you're spending and find expenses you can eliminate, like that latté from Starbucks every morning or all those cable channels. Once you have a better handle on your spending, you'll make better decisions and be able to save money for your emergency fund.

"You have to be odd to be number one."

—Dr. Seuss

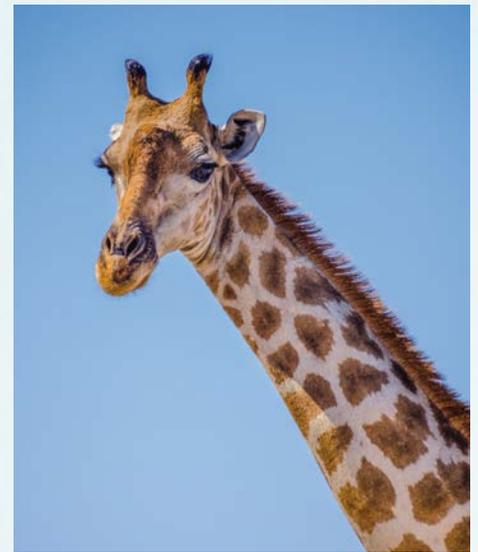
Bringing Top Talent To The Table

Hiring the right people is essential to your organization's long-term success. You have to be picky. Here are the people to look for, according to *Forbes*:

- **Fierce negotiators.** Candidates who know what they're worth and are capable of making a case for themselves usually turn out to be powerful performers. Don't shy away from them. You want confident employees on your team.
- **Self-aware individuals.** Good employees know how they come across to other people and where they fit into the workplace and culture. Look for evidence of attention to others, empathy, and a willingness to encourage people.
- **Courageous people.** You want people who are comfortable taking risks, who choose courage over comfort. Ask about challenges they've confronted, obstacles they've overcome, and problems they've solved, as well as failures they've had to deal with. This should give you a good idea of their desire not to always play it safe.
- **People who add to your culture.** Go beyond looking for a "good fit." Seek out candidates who bring something different and new to the table. They may come from different backgrounds or have unconventional experience, but the best people will contribute to your organization in new and exciting ways.
- **Curiosity seekers.** Your organization needs creativity and innovation, so target candidates who ask lots of questions about your organization and industry and who don't blindly accept the status quo. The best questions include, "Why are we doing this?" and "Why don't we try that?"

"Some failure in life is inevitable. It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all—in which case, you fail by default."

—J.K. Rowling



Brain Teasers

Q: According to Greek mythology, who was the first woman on Earth?

A: *Pandora*

Q: Which singer's real name is Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta?

A: *Lady Gaga*

Q: Where were the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights stored during World War II?

A: *Fort Knox*

Q: Which two U.S. states don't observe Daylight Savings Time?

A: *Arizona and Hawaii*

Q: Which mammal has no vocal cords?

A: *The giraffe*

Q: What was the first toy to be advertised on television?

A: *Mr. Potato Head*

Q: Which of William Shakespeare's plays is the longest?

A: *Hamlet*

Q: Before the Beatles were formed, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and George Harrison were originally members of which group?

A: *The Quarrymen*

Q: What country won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?

A: *Uruguay*

Q: Which two countries share the longest international border?

A: *The United States and Canada*

Q: How many hearts does an octopus have?

A: *Three*

—Thought Catalog

Touchless... *continued from page 1*

Brand: There are many different brands on the market today. The best ones are the ones that will do the job! Ensure they are suitable for an industrial setting.

Power supply: In retrofit applications, the sensors operate through a battery. Rechargeable batteries can be used to further save resources and money.

Deciding to convert to touchless plumbing fixtures does not have to be difficult. Most touchless fixtures are available in various metal finishes and, since touchless fixtures are less likely to have fingerprint smudges, an easy-to-clean metal finish will do the trick.

If the lavatories have tanks, a touchless toilet flush kit that is installed in the tank is the solution. The sensor range and flush time are adjustable. Automatic motion sensors are available and are powered by batteries.

For tankless lavatories (i.e., urinals), an exposed sensor urinal retrofit flushometer is available, picture right.

A faucet's flow rate measures how many gallons per minute (GPM) it produces when turned on. If efficiency is the goal, a lower GPM model would be the choice.



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Touchless... *continued from above*

You can expect that the manufacturer of whichever brand is chosen provides a maintenance schedule along with a life expectancy of the individual parts. Some manufacturers, such as SLOAN, offer parts whose life expectancy is usually higher than industry standard.

When the owner of a facility is presented with the options and cost for replacing the fixtures, at face value, the cost may seem prohibitively high. The following is an excerpt of an article that appeared in an issue of Facilitiesnet.com (<https://www.facilitiesnet.com/plumbingrestrooms/article/Tips-for-Going-Touchless--3776>).

The fixtures "had been touted as a water-conservation measure, and the utility costs in Boston are quite high," says Thomas Tribble, P.E., JD, Director of Facilities Maintenance at Boston Medical Center. The medical center, the teaching hospital for Boston University's medical school, has 20 buildings

with about two million square feet of space.

"Even if we hadn't been ecology-minded, the cost to maintain the existing fixtures would have made us take a look at touchless fixtures," he says.

There are several different state and federal programs across the country that offer rebates for installing touchless fixtures. More specifically, the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program offers several rebates regarding water conservation. Please refer to their list for all the programs they offer for different municipalities across each state.

If you are thinking about converting your current plumbing fixtures to touchless, call us today for a free survey at 508.644.2221. Ask for Jason Taylor, our Vice President of Operations. By e-mail at JTaylor@pipingsystemsinc.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



We're doing our part!

