

Toilet Bowl Brush Overhaul

New ergonomic toilet brush system cleans faster, easier and improves UNC Charlotte staff morale.

At the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Housing Department, Housekeeping Coordinator Marie Walley has made it her business to make restroom cleaning an ergonomic experience. She is responsible for maintaining clean and sanitary restrooms in twelve residence halls. She is also in charge of protecting the 39-person housekeeping staff from work-related injuries.

Walley successfully manages her responsibilities with the help of an ergonomic restroom cleaning system from Unger Enterprises that includes such tools as a flat mop system and sanitary brush, a combination scrubber and squeegee. In January 2005, Walley expanded this restroom cleaning kit when she added Unger's ergonomic toilet bowl brush system designed specifically for professional cleaners.

"Implementing a restroom cleaning system dramatically increased productivity and improved staff morale," Walley said. "For example, the mop system took seven to eight pounds off the mopping



Unger's SmartColorBucket and Mop Systems allow worker's to clean faster with less physical strain.



The ErgoToiletBowlBrush's long, curved handle reaches and scrubs all surfaces inside bowl without bending or straining.

process. This allowed us to clean faster with less physical strain on our employees. But I knew I wouldn't be satisfied until I replaced all bowl mops for toilet and urinal cleaning. They are simply unsanitary and difficult to use."

Ergonomic toilet bowl brush systems with holder are now replacing traditional bowl mops and improper holders. Several of these systems have been introduced in three of UNC's housing high rises. According to Walley, her staff greatly appreciates the time savings and the products' ease of use.

Walley says the toilet bowl brush systems last up to three times as long as bowl mops and require half as much chemicals used for cleaning. In addition, the time it takes to clean a urinal or toilet bowl is reduced by two-thirds.

Walley's staff is also more comfortable now as a result of the product's improved features.

"The longer handle keeps my staff's faces away from the toilet bowl and prevents splash back," Walley said. "The curved head reaches under the rim and the angled bristles are more effective on toilet bowl stains. The holder is easier to clean, and because the toilet bowl brush system can hang freely on the tool cart, it frees up much needed space."



Scrub and clean floors with the Sanitary Brush/Squeegee, 2 in 1 tool.

Advancing today's restroom cleaning products, ergonomic toilet bowl brushes provide better sanitation, increase productivity and improve ergonomics. Features include a long, ergonomic handle and changeable snap-in brush head designed to remove uric acid and hard water deposits. Stiff nylon bristles reduce cross contamination by keeping harmful bacteria from collecting. A circular brush head and special bristle angles allow easier access under the rim and into crevices. The brush's unique design enables lowering of the water line using a plunging action to force water out of the trap. It also achieves a better chemical soak in the bowl to fight tough stains, and the holder isolates contaminants away from the brush. The system is highly recommended for daily and project cleaning.

Cleaning experts agree that ergonomic products are even more effective as a group of products that comprise a cleaning system. Other products from Unger included in Walley's selected restroom cleaning system are a restroom mop system which consists of an ergonomic, microfiber flat mop and dual compartment bucket. The mop's microfiber cleans more deeply and efficiently while its flat edges and pivoting head reach into corners and other narrow spaces. A lightweight, telescoping aluminum handle allows the user an upright, comfortable position while the bucket keeps clean solution separate from dirty rinse water. It also has ergonomic features to lighten the load and reduce trips to the janitor closet to empty and refill.

One of the favored tools among Walley's housekeeping staff is an 18-inch, ergonomic sanitary brush on a telescoping pole. A combination scrubber and squeegee that cleans floors and walls effectively. Polypropylene brush bristles offer gentle scrubbing action that won't scratch surfaces. The double moss rubber squeegee conforms to uneven surfaces to remove dirt and water from grout lines.

According to Walley, the brush dries floors completely to prevent slips and falls. Red color coding on all the restroom cleaning tools makes training simple and reduces the likelihood of cross contamination.

Walley now uses several Unger restroom mop systems among three dormitories and is in the process of adding more for all eight housing buildings on campus. She plans to eventually double the number of new ergonomic toilet and urinal brush cleaning systems to be used throughout the entire facility.

"The floors and toilets are cleaner, the buildings are less dusty, cleaning gets finished faster and my progressive staff is happier," Walley said.