

Out with the old, in with the new

The John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center in Boston's historic Back Bay is one of the busiest midsize event and conference venues in the country. Licensed to house up to 25,000 people at any given time, it boasts 193,000 square feet of exhibit space in five separate halls, over 75,000 square feet of meeting space in 38 rooms, as well as a 25,000 square foot ballroom. The Hynes hosts a variety of shows, conferences, exhibits, and other community and business events, and offers a variety of audiovisual, cleaning, security, and food and beverage services for patrons.



John Donahue, building superintendent, is completing some much-needed upgrades for the Hynes Convention Center. Because of the large number of patrons that visit the Hynes throughout the year, he said, "We've seen a good deal of wear and tear on some parts of the establishment, particularly the fixtures in the bathrooms."

The MCCA wanted to make the building as environmentally friendly as possible, which meant that many automated/low-flow units and hand dryers

were installed in the Hynes restrooms starting in the late 1980s.

After a while, however, Donahue noticed that the hand dryers were no longer functioning properly. "The heating element would go and the air volume would diminish over time, so all you'd get was low-volume cold air."

After receiving a recommendation from the deputy director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Donahue examined Excel Dryer's XLERATOR hand dryer and was impressed by how quickly and effectively it dries hands. The XLERATOR is designed with a high-velocity air stream that blows off excess water droplets and rapidly evaporates the remaining layer of moisture. XLERATOR dries hands in 10 to 15 seconds, three times faster than traditional hand dryers, and uses 80 percent less energy. XLERATOR delivers a 95 percent cost savings when compared to paper towels, and eliminates their maintenance while improving hygiene in the restroom. The units are also GreenSpec® approved and qualify for LEED® credits awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Donahue discovered that the XLERATOR units would be relatively easy to retrofit into the restrooms as older dryers failed. "We began gradually phasing out the previous dryers as they broke down over time," Donahue explained. "The XLERATOR was easier to install than the older models, which were recessed into the walls, leaving holes that had to be covered up."

Donahue selected chrome cover XLERATOR dryers to match the décor, and is also considering the newer textured graphite covers for planned retrofitting of their new state of the art Boston Convention & Exhibition Center facility.



Ninety-five percent of the Hynes restrooms were equipped with the older dryers, and many retained paper towel dispensers as well. "Being rid of the towel dispensers is a definite plus," said Donahue. "There is no paper waste on the floor, and less material to clog toilets. We're not expending nearly as much labor cleaning the bathrooms, and in the more than two years since they were installed, none of the XLERATOR units have failed." □



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Unit 301 Narra Building,
2276 Pasong Tamo Extension
Makati City, Philippines 1231

T. +632 8286 5464 / +632 8292 9083
E. xlerator@infinitebrandstrading.com
W. www.infinitebrands.ph



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