



Tornado ACS works in the most sensitive environments; shown here restoring a hospital operating room floor.

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- Hospital Support Service Manager*

Big Buy-in For Tornado ACS in Graffiti and Restoral Battles

Tornado ACS gives new lease on life to dated Hospital flooring

The Tornado ACS system has proven itself to be a powerful tool in hospital maintenance upgrade programs.

Before introducing the Tornado ACS, the General Manager of Support Services for a hospital serving the needs of an area on the edge of a major North American metropolitan area was faced with two significant facilities management issues.

The two-fold facilities issues were: the recent hospital expansion program now makes older areas of the hospital look neglected; secondly, this appearance of neglect creates a misperception of the hospital in both the eyes of the hospital staff and the public.

The Tornado ACS solved the facilities upgrade problem for hospital management without incur-

ring additional capital expense of installing new flooring.

The problem: the operating room terrazzo floors were stained by acids, including iodine (an abrasive) that burns through the layers of floor wax. Such acids will burn through layers of wax within one day.

The solution: with the Tornado ACS there is no need to use any chemicals to clean the sensitive hospital environment. The selected cleaning media removed the build of wax and the stains on the terrazzo flooring. Since the Tornado ACS is a self-contained unit, costly set-up time is avoided, no dust is created and the terrazzo flooring was completely restored to a high-quality finish.

Because of the operating efficiencies inherent in the Tornado ACS, the system can be wheeled into the operating room at any time. This on-the-spot efficiency is especially important in hospitals where there is limited opportunity to get

into an operating room.

“Operating rooms allow a very narrow time window for cleaning. From a facilities management point-of-view an operating room closed for maintenance means a lack of availability for medical care and ultimately, a reduction in hospital revenues,” commented the hospital spokesperson.

“With the Tornado ACS the floor looks as though it was laid yesterday,” said the support services manager. “To look at before and after pictures of the operating room, the Tornado ACS offers a cleaning comparison that is almost unbelievable.”

Hospital facilities management now intends to use the Tornado ACS system in other areas, such as terrazzo stairways. The Tornado ACS is a unit that can be used to clean during normal hospital hours. Facilities staff can wear normal uniforms and do not require protective wear, which “in a hospital are great advantages,” says the Support Services Manager. ■

Tornado ACS gets buy in from Big City Merchants

For the 1,400 merchant members of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ (Business Improvement Zone), the Tornado ACS is a powerful tool in the fight against graffiti. To merchants everywhere, graffiti is much more than a crime. Graffiti blights the business area. Graffiti works as negative advertising. It suggests crime and gangs and keeps restaurant patrons and shoppers away.

In mid-2009 Ed Medgyes, who works for the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, and his colleague at the City of Winnipeg, were determined to solve the city's graffiti problem.

"Prior to the Tornado ACS, we used a pressure washer system to soften and remove the graffiti paint," explains Medgyes. "That approach was not acceptable because the pressure washers are noisy, spray water, and leave strong chemical smells," says Medgyes. In addition, any chemical smells concern merchants and shoppers become alarmed about health effects of noxious odors."

"We clearly had to change our approach to fighting graffiti," said Medgyes. "We took on the challenge to find the greenest solution possible to clean up graffiti."

The Tornado ACS demonstration impressed both Medgyes and his colleague. The fact that the Tornado ACS did not use water or chemicals and was completely housed in a self-contained unit addressed all of their "green" concerns. The two men each acquired a Tornado ACS for their respective organizations.

Another key feature of the Tornado ACS that Medgyes appreciates is the control mechanisms of the system. "The Tornado ACS allows steady, precise pressure to be applied on the substrate. In Winnipeg Tyndall stone (limestone) is used in much of our local architecture. The rock is like soft brick so the graffiti removal process must be quite gentle," says Medgyes.

The BIZ organization now has a crew of three people trained to use the Tornado ACS. Total training time is less than one day. "The Tornado ACS really pays its own way with the dramatically lower costs we have for graffiti related supplies and repair work," says Medgyes.



The Tornado ACS: complete surface restoration without water or chemicals.

The Tornado ACS is easily recognized by locals in the Downtown Winnipeg area. "It attracts exceptional public interest," says Medgyes proudly. "Because it's eco-friendly everyone thinks the Tornado ACS is fantastic!" ■

School Board Chalks up Big Benefits with Tornado ACS

The cost of graffiti can be a burden to school budgets. That one line budget item can draw as much negative attention as the graffiti problem itself. Thanks to the Tornado ACS, the funds that the Lloydminster Public School Division (LPSD) once spent on fighting graffiti can now be redirected to facility upgrades. In the opinion of Dr. Michael Diachuk, Director of Education, for LPSD, the investment in green technology is an excellent choice because of its return on investment.

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Bernard Gauthier, Facilities Manager at LPSD agrees with his boss and Director, Dr. Diachuk. "The cost-savings benefits are real. But the real beauty of the Tornado ACS is for the equipment operator: There are no chemicals or water used at all," says Gauthier.

Speaking from several years' experience, Gauthier has used many products and systems to deal with the issues involved with graffiti removal.

Prior to operating the Tornado ACS, Gauthier had experience cleaning graffiti using pre-sprays and pressure steam. "The steam turns to water, so the worker had to get suited up with personal protective clothing and use a ventilator. Stripping products are known to be hard on the human digestive system," says Gauthier.

The Tornado ACS graffiti-removing compounds use nut shells and jet glass for concrete masonry. "It is the most effective graffiti removal product for our needs," says Gauthier, noting, "The Tornado ACS is great for getting into the joints and cleaning cinder block."

Gauthier has found the typical operator requires four hours training time with the Tornado ACS system. According to Gauthier the worry and guess work about choosing the right chemical product application for the graffiti removal job are gone. Graffiti removal is much easier now. This brings considerable peace of mind to those operators trained to use the Tornado ACS.

Gauthier and the Lloydminster Public School Division like the economies of the Tornado ACS system: the ability to recycle the media 60 to 80 times; the fact that media supplies can last for several months with no special handling; and, most of all we are proud to report that we now save \$40,000 a year on graffiti-related expenses. Gauthier sums it up: "The Tornado ACS is totally green for the environment and totally safe for a school." ■