



Streamlining healthcare hygiene protocols via customizable disinfecting wipes

The risk of cross-contamination in healthcare facilities is higher than in other facilities, which is why healthcare facilities must adhere to strict hygiene standards and protocols. To minimize cross-contamination risk, it's essential to simplify and optimize cleaning tasks. The following case study demonstrates the power of a Kimberly-Clark Professional problem-solving consultation and the WetTask™ customizable wet wiping system as part of an intervention in an Australian acute care system.

The challenge

Faced with constant pressure to overcome complex challenges in a dynamic environment, environmental services managers (ESM) are always looking to improve processes. That is why one ESM engaged our hygiene consultant.

The ESM's main challenge was managing and controlling cleaning operations in a large acute care facility. A small cleaning team with multiple responsibilities made it hard to ensure that cleaning protocols were consistently followed. Limited visibility into cleaning operations was also a major hygiene and cleanliness concern.

Difficult conditions

2
supervisors



20
cleaning
personnel



150
beds



The solution

Our hygiene consultant's first step was to shadow the cleaning staff as they carried out their duties. The consultant also performed ATP swab tests to determine the efficacy of existing cleaning protocols.

ATP swab testing is a rapid method for determining approximately how dirty a surface is by measuring the amount of organic matter remaining on the surface after cleaning. Though the facility met Australia's national acute care cleaning standards, it became apparent that there was room for improvement.

The benefits of our joint efforts and consultative approach were evident in the results: cleaning protocols were optimized. Training was then provided for the implementation of the WetTask™ system.

The findings



Premature removal of active chemicals from surfaces

Cleaners would wipe surfaces with a pre-saturated wipe and then use a paper towel to remove visible soapy residue, unintentionally removing active ingredient prematurely.



Infrequent cleaning of high-touch areas

Surfaces in the immediate patient and visitor spaces were often neglected from cleaning protocols. For example, walls where patients' medical charts were placed would sometimes be left out of cleaning protocols. This increased the risk of cross-contamination as different medical staff members would handle the charts throughout the day.



An inconsistent and time-consuming process

Cleaners had to retrieve multiple cleaning tools and chemicals – such as open buckets – and dilute the cleaning chemicals before wiping down surfaces. This led to inefficiencies, which were compounded by the fact that the cleaning staff would perform their duties in their own way. The team was also using a spray-and-wipe cleaning method in addition to open bucket cleaning and pre-saturated wipes.

The findings

With a better understanding of how to optimize existing practices, the facility proceeded to test a series of changes using the WetTask™ system.

The trial demonstrated clear results and showcased a stark difference in hygiene readings and operational efficiency. Encouraged by the outcomes, the ESM decided to move forward with the WetTask™ system. To facilitate a smooth transition to the new cleaning protocols, our hygiene consultant began training cleaning supervisors and staff in best practices.

The results

WetTask™ disposable wipes, pre-saturated with the customer's cleaning chemicals, helped streamline the acute care facility's cleaning operations and improved cleaning efficiencies¹.

Using ATP swab testing, surfaces were found to be cleaner after implementing the WetTask™ system. For example, swab data from different patient trays in three infectious rooms frequently showed an over 50% improvement in surface hygiene for those items in direct contact with patients and staff. Here are some examples of cleaning improvements throughout the acute care facility:

SURFACE	ATP SCORES after previous cleaning protocol	ATP SCORES after WetTask™ cleaning protocol*	PERCENTAGE IMPROVEMENT ²
Patient room window ledge	215-220	20-25	90%
Infectious room patient tray (Stradbroke)	35-40	5-10	80%
Infectious room patient tray (Canaipa)	20-25	15-20	22%
Mobile Ergotron keyboards	20-25	15-20	22%

*ATP swab test readings³ taken after surfaces were cleaned. Higher readings indicate that additional cleaning needs to be performed.



The WetTask™ system continues to deliver efficient cleaning and enhanced hygiene

The WetTask™ system delivered immediate benefits that continue to this day. **The use of wipes⁴ was reduced by more than 60%⁵** and cleaners now have a consistent, efficient and hygienic cleaning process that has helped improve surface hygiene¹.

Overall, the change to the WetTask™ system helped the acute care facility save time and enabled it to implement more efficient, simple cleaning processes – while attaining improved hygiene standards.



“Easy to use, just grab a wipe!”

- Staff member in the Australian acute care facility

Use of wipes reduced⁴ by more than 60%⁵

Results were based on customer's use of Meltblown WetTask™ wipes.

Visit our website for more information »

References:

1. Compared to customer's previous cleaning equipment of pre-saturated wipes, based on onsite observations conducted in Australia.
2. Percentage improvement compares the cleaning efficiency of pre-saturated wipes and WetTask™ wipes when both cleaning tools are used to clean the same surface. Values are calculated by taking the difference between the average swab value of the surface cleaned by the pre-saturated wipes and the average swab value of the surface cleaned by WetTask™ wipes, divided by the average swab value of the surface cleaned by the pre-saturated wipes.
3. The ATP test is a process of rapidly measuring actively growing microorganisms through detection of adenosine triphosphate. This test is intended to be a guide only. The ATP SystemSure Plus Machine is manufactured by a third party and is subject to a number of limitations outlined in its product information guide: [Click on this link for reference](#). Accordingly, KCP makes no guarantees about the accuracy of the testing results. Any reliance that you place on the test is at your own risk. We recommend basing any decisions on your own investigations.
4. Based on the usage of WetTask™ SKU #6101
5. Based on data provided by the WetTask™ system customer, where a comparison was made between the average monthly usage of pre-saturated wipes and the number of WetTask™ wipes used during the trial (from March to July, 2020). Actual consumption may vary from customer to customer.