



Case Study

O'Hare International Airport – Chicago

World's Busiest Airport Strives for World-Class Facilities

Challenge

O'Hare International Airport in Chicago serves about 76 million passengers each year. The Chicago Airport System is dedicated to providing world-class facilities and unmatched amenities to enhance the travel experience for its millions of customers.

To accomplish this goal, every restroom at O'Hare will eventually be renovated to better serve users' needs and make them easier to maintain. Older restrooms have cracked china sinks and other dated fixtures. The O'Hare design team has determined some restrooms will be gutted, and all others will receive facelifts with paint and new fixtures, a cost-effective solution for meeting short-term goals.

Solution

Dorothy Izewski, supervising architect on the restroom modernization project, set out to find handwashing stations with integral bowls that were easy to repair. Improved accessibility was also a priority. She selected the Frequency® Lavatory System, a solid-surface, multi-height lavatory from Bradley to upgrade restrooms throughout the United Airlines terminal.

“A wall-mounted handwashing fixture was an easy way for us to retrofit existing restrooms,” said Izewski. “We chose the Frequency Lavatory for its unique wave-shaped design which adds visual interest. The wave theme was carried through to the coordinating Frequency waste receptacles.”

The Frequency Lavatory Systems were specified in Terreon® to coordinate with the existing Terrazzo flooring, stainless steel partitions and the restrooms’ blue and gray color scheme. Several dozen restrooms have already been completed, and many have new accessories such as mirrors, soap dispensers, grab bars and coat hooks from Bradley to complete the transformation.

A New Handwashing Concept

The Frequency Lavatory System was developed with input from architects, building owners and interior designers to meet the most discerning specifications. The first-of-its-kind design simplifies the task of meeting ADA height requirements by offering multi-height lavas all in one unit. Frequency units are available in one-, two- and three-station options.

Depending on space allocation, the O’Hare restrooms feature either two or three-stations and most are large enough to accommodate a series of three-sink configurations that create a wall of waves.

Airports have unique challenges when it comes to restroom design. Flat counters, for example, give users a place to drop their heavy baggage, which could tear them off the wall. Flat counters can also pose a security risk when people stand on them to reach ceiling tiles where they can hide things.

Izewski eliminates countertops when possible, preferring to use group lavatories with a continuous bowl, or units like the Frequency. The Frequency Lav is made of Bradley’s Terreon® solid surface material which resists stains, burns, chemicals and impact. In the unlikely event the surface is damaged, it is easily repaired with everyday cleaners or fine-grit abrasives.

Coming Clean

According to plumbing foreman for O’Hare, Raymond Campbell with Independent Mechanical Industries, the Frequency Lav installation has gone extremely well. As a group handwashing fixture, Frequency is designed to have fewer connections and only one waste outlet to help reduce installation time. (However, it is flexible enough to allow for individual connections for each sink, as required by some local codes.) Installation is also kept to a minimum because there is just one unit for both the standard height and ADA-compliant stations.

“These lavatories are much easier to install than a bank of individual china sinks, and Bradley provided helpful solutions along the way, says Campbell. Customers have given us a lot of positive feedback about the new look of the restrooms with these lavatories,” Campbell adds. “They’re easy to use and give the restroom a completely different look.”



The Frequency multi-height lavatory system makes handwashing easy for everyone. And Bradley introduced a line of complimentary accessories including waste receptacles, towel dispensers, mirrors and soap dispenser to complete the design theme.

“We chose the Frequency Lavatory for its unique wave-shaped design which adds visual interest. The wave theme was carried through to the coordinating Frequency waste receptacles.”

– Dorothy Izewski
Supervising Architect
O’Hare International Airport



Frequency’s one-of-a-kind design simplifies meeting ADA height requirements.

Note: Product images shown in this case study are representative of the products installed at O’Hare Intl. Airport. Actual models and colors are different.