

# Touchless Lavatories Maximize Industry Demands

submitted by Bradley Corp.

Recently, the commercial plumbing industry has seen a number of advancements in the commercial restroom products category. These innovations have been largely driven by several overriding goals:

1. Reducing maintenance and operations costs,
2. Using sustainable and green building practices,
3. Extending the lifecycle of products, and
4. Improving convenience and safety for users.

As a result, manufacturers are designing products that are more durable, low-maintenance, water- and energy-saving, sustainable, hygienic and safety-conscious. Touchless fixtures, which embody many of these characteristics, have been embraced by both consumers and building owners; touchless fixtures stand out as one of the defining trends in commercial restroom design.

Hands-free fixtures are convenient and simple for users to activate, and easier for facility owners to clean and maintain. They also cut down on the touchpoints in the restroom, reducing the transmission of germs and bacteria from users' hands. Often vandals might leave a faucet running to create a mess in the restroom; sensor faucets prevent this with an automatic shut



*Bradley's Advocate AV Series Lavatory System, the first touchless hand washing fixture to provide a sink, soap, faucet and dual-sided dryer in one unit.*

off, thereby stopping a water overflow mess and also saving water.

Recent innovations like Bradley's Advocate AV Series Lavatory System, the first touchless hand washing fixture to provide a sink, soap, faucet and dual-sided dryer all in one unit, eliminate dripping water on the floor, promoting safety in commercial restrooms, since the user's hands stay within the sink area until they are dried. In effect, water goes down the drain, not on the floor or down the walls.

Research has shown that wet floors are not just a safety hazard; they also leave a negative impression with restroom users. Bradley Corp. conducts an annual national survey of Americans about their hand washing habits and perceptions of commercial restrooms and found that wet and slippery floors cause restroom users the highest amount of aggravation in public restrooms. While 68-percent of Americans say that water collecting on the floor is extremely/very aggravating, almost 50% are extremely/very uneasy about walking across a wet restroom floor. This study can be found online at <http://www.bradleycorp.com/handwashing>.

Designers and building owners expect a plumbing fixture to last for up to 20 years, even though they will periodically update things like partitions, paint and accessories to keep the look fresh and current.

Bradley is a proponent of utilizing high quality durable products in restrooms; such products typically have superior design and are more aesthetically appealing to end-users, which helps to create a good impression of management and the overall business. Although there are some costs associated with retrofits and renovations, many of these new advancements in restroom technology can help to offset costs.

*Learn more about Bradley's Advocate AV-Series Lavatory System on page 33.*



Continued from page 29

## Bradley Corp. Advocate AV-Series Lavatory System

The Advocate, introduced by Bradley in 2012, is the first touchless hand washing fixture to provide a sink, soap, faucet and dual-sided dryer all in one unit; a true paradigm shift in the science of hand washing, offering benefits to both users and building owners.

The Advocate Lavatory System can achieve a greater water savings over other commercial fixtures, as it is equipped with a hygienic hands-free infrared 0.38 gpm faucet that reduces water usage by 24% over 0.5 gpm faucets. It also includes an infrared, high-speed dual-sided hand dryer, which dries hands in 15 seconds or less, and reduces debris and waste in the restroom, paper costs and labor time for cleaning and restocking paper towel dispensers.

With the Advocate, users conveniently and intuitively move their hands from left to right using soap, faucet and hand dryer. The design eliminates dripping water on the floor, since the user's hands stay within the sink area until they are dried, creating a cleaner and safer restroom environment

As for sustainability, the Advocate is made from Bradley's TerreonRE Recycled Solid Surface Material, which is comprised of 25% pre-consumer recycled content and a bio-based resin, and is GREENGUARD certified as a low-emitting material. Solid surfaces resist stains, chemicals, graffiti, scratches and heat, which reduces the likelihood of repairs and the need for replacements.

Learn more about the Advocate AV-Series Lavatory System at [www.bradleycorp.com/advocate](http://www.bradleycorp.com/advocate).



### Seamless, fully cast brass spout

Easy-to-clean. Durable. Tough enough to withstand the rigors of commercial installations

### Easy to install integrated design

Installs from the top. All electronics, sensor and solenoid in the spout. No control box below deck

### Optional above deck mixing

Dual hot and cold water inlets  
Leak-free ceramic disc valve used for mixing  
Removable temperature control handle  
Field-adjustable hot limit stop

### Selectronic Universal Sensor

### Water-Saving, yet High Performing, Fixtures

Water conservation continues to be top-of-mind for specifying engineers, maintenance managers and plumbing contractors, both from a cost-saving and an environmental perspective.

Today's high efficiency commercial toilet flushing systems can powerfully clear the bowl using just 1.1 gallons per flush (gpf), a savings of 31 percent over a standard 1.6 gpf toilet. Compared with a 1.28 gpf high efficiency commercial toilet, these new 1.1 gpf systems deliver 11 percent water savings, while removing up to 800 grams of solid waste in the Maximum Performance (MaP) test. American Standard is currently the only major manufacturer that offers this flushometer system.

High efficiency need not look out of place in a commercial bathroom. Take, for example, the artistically modern design of the American Standard Decorum FloWise urinal. It cuts standard water use by 50 percent, yet is still powerful enough to meet the high performance standards of the US EPA's WaterSense program requirements.

### Surfaces that Stay Cleaner, Longer

Streamlining product maintenance is also here to stay. "The most important feature for a commercial plumbing product is ease-of-use and maintenance," explained Jacob's Hinojosa.

An advantage for facility managers in commercial and institutional settings, antimicrobial technology will help toilets, urinals and sinks stay cleaner, longer. EverClean, pioneered by American Standard, is a permanent antimicrobial surface finish that inhibits the growth of stain and odor-causing bacteria, mold and mildew on chinaware. It is a valuable feature in high-use public installations.

Moving forward, plumbing manufacturers will need to continue building on these high performance solutions with new innovations that further reduce costs, yet provide increased operational efficiency, while offering stylish options that satisfy the keen eye of specifiers and designers. This requires the investment of technical resources, creative product specialists and engineers who think outside the box, all working towards the common goal of creating intelligent plumbing choices that the market of the future will demand.