



Case Study

Pepperdine University – Malibu, California

Challenge

Pepperdine University's men's and women's water sports locker rooms, and the general use locker room, were furnished with old metal lockers that had seen better days, according to Dave Heetland, project manager for Pepperdine's Facilities, Management and Planning department. "The metal lockers, particularly in the men's and women's water sports areas, were in need of replacement because of their high usage and the lockers had come to the end of their life cycle," he explains.

Heetland's goals were to update the locker rooms, add some design "pizzazz", and use quality products that could withstand the harsh wet and humid conditions of these high-traffic locker areas.

Attracting students was another goal because the campus hosts prospective students during water polo matches, swim meets, and public swimming. "From a recruitment perspective, it's important that our locker rooms are furnished with quality materials and products. They also need to be clean and well-maintained and stand the test of time," he says.



Solution

Pepperdine’s Facilities Management and Planning team consulted with Chris Braun, local sales representative from Bradley, and Dave Gronquist, project manager for Rusco, a firm that specializes in lockers and shelving, who recommended Bradley’s solid plastic Lenox® Lockers. “Lenox Lockers were my first thought for these renovations, since the lockers are made from a highly durable material that stands up to the harshest environments and damage,” Braun says. “We talked about how Lenox Lockers reduce maintenance repairs and costs – especially in comparison with metal lockers.”

Lenox Lockers are made from solid high-density polyethylene plastic – a durable material that remains unaffected by moisture, humidity, and chlorine, making them rust-resistant. With an absorption rate of nearly zero, the lockers resist odors, and are designed to withstand impact, dents and scratches that would easily damage metal lockers.

Part of Gronquist’s charge was to provide comprehensive planning assistance for renovating several locker areas, each with their own design needs. It was clear to him that the women’s water sports and general use locker rooms would be best served by complete sets of Lenox Lockers, ordered in deep blue, while the facility team requested a different approach in the men’s water sports area. Since Lenox Lockers are available in a wide range of sizes, tiers, colors and options, Gronquist was able to address these needs:

“For the men’s locker room, the facility team decided to use orange metal lockers, but since the swimmers often put wet suits on top of the lockers, we placed blue flat panel solid plastic tops over the orange metal lockers,” he says. “The result is a striking custom application that incorporates Pepperdine’s school colors, orange for the metal lockers and deep blue for the plastic panel tops. The water-resistant plastic flat panel tops are a perfect ‘water resistant’ solution to sopping wet suits sitting on top of the lockers.”

Lenox Lockers provide options and easy maintenance

The new look of the locker rooms has taken on a warm and colorful yet functional look with Lenox Lockers, according to Heetland. “Compared with the old traditional metal lockers, these new solid plastic lockers are extremely complementary to the style we wanted to achieve. The addition of Lenox Lockers to these rooms was a major improvement.”

In addition, Heetland likes the fact that Lenox Lockers are made from 30% pre-consumer recycled content. “We’ve been making an effort to ‘color’ our facilities green, so when we learned that Lenox Lockers are comprised of recycled material that’s also very durable, we knew it would be a positive choice.

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“We were also struck by the sturdy construction – everything from the solid plastic material down to the handles and latching mechanisms,” says Heetland. “Plus, they were shipped ready to install so installation was simple.” Since Lenox Lockers are built and shipped in one solid piece, installation consists of merely attaching the lockers together and securing them to the wall.

Maintenance has also proved to be minimal, he adds. Spray paint, markers and dirt are easily removed from the lockers and they never need to be repainted.

All in all, Heetland is sold on Pepperdine’s selection of Lenox Lockers, which carry a 20-year warranty. “Since installation, we’ve not heard one problem – I’ve heard only positive feedback – so I know we made the right choice.”

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