



Case Study

Washington Beef Processing Plant, Toppenish/Washington

Challenge

AB Foods Washington Beef Processing Plant is a state-of-the-art meat processing facility, which employs approximately 600 employees. Owned by AgrilBeef Co., of Boise, Idaho, Washington Beef is a major player in the meat processing industry, producing a range of beef products sold nationally at its 273,000 square foot plant.

Driven by the company's mission to produce a variety of safe and wholesome beef for its consumers, Washington Beef incorporates modern products, technologies and upgrades to its operations. In addition to demanding work activities, such as beef handling, cutting, processing, packing and shipping, the staff must contend with a cold and harsh work environment, and soiled and messy conditions inherent in beef processing operations. When the facility's fabrication locker rooms were recently remodeled, a top priority was to replace the old and rusted-out metal lockers that had seen better days.



Solution

As floor superintendent Humberto Obipso explains, management knew the new fabrication locker rooms needed durable lockers that would withstand every day usage and regular washings. “Grease and grime are regularly tracked inside and all around the fabrication locker rooms,” Obipso says. “Between workers’ dirty boots and workers touching the lockers after working on the fabrication floor, the men’s and women’s locker rooms get pretty gunked up.”

Forrest Wilbanks, territory manager for National Safety, Inc., knew Bradley’s solid plastic Lenox® Lockers would fit the bill. “Lenox Lockers were the perfect solution, since these lockers are made from a highly durable plastic material that holds up under the harshest environments and daily use,” Wilbanks says. “Lenox Lockers save on maintenance repairs and costs – especially compared with metal lockers – and can be easily cleaned.”

Washington Beef’s Fabrication area ordered 169 double tier lockers for the men’s locker room, and 69 double tier lockers for the women’s locker room. The Value-Added Product (VAP) area ordered 39 double tier lockers for the men’s locker room and 39 double tier lockers for the women’s locker room. The lockers are mounted

on steel brackets, leaving a 2 foot clearance underneath the lockers so that the floors may be hosed down.

Lenox Lockers: a long-term durable solution

Lenox Lockers are made from solid high-density polyethylene plastic, which remains unaffected by moisture, making them rust-resistant. In addition to being odor-resistant, the lockers are designed to withstand impact, dents and scratches that would easily damage metal lockers. Dirt, grime, spray paint and markers are wiped away with standard cleaning products and the lockers never need to be repainted.

“Our main goal for this renovation was to replace rusty old lockers with new ones that look clean and professional, and are guaranteed to last,” Obipso says. “Lenox Lockers have definitely upgraded the design of our locker rooms. We don’t expect to replace these lockers based on their great performance so far.”

After seeing how well the solid plastic lockers have stood up, Washington Beef placed an order for Bradley’s Bradmar Partitions – also made of solid plastic – for the men’s and women’s restrooms in the VAP locker area. Bradmar partitions are also hard to dent or scratch and easy to clean.

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Humberto Obipso
Floor Super Intendant

Obipso adds that Washington Beef has been very pleased with the performance of solid plastic. In particular, he says the lockers have helped minimize sanitary issues and bacteria growth, which plagued the old metal lockers. “The lockers help us meet USDA standards and now our monthly audits are straightforward,” he says. “We’re able to focus less on maintenance and more on the business of beef processing.”



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