

## School district's cleanliness surprises local television crew

The media, especially television, is often criticized for concentrating too heavily on bad news. But unfortunately, sometimes that's what is needed to shake things up and make some changes.

Case in point: In 2004, a television news crew found school bathrooms in several localities around Southern California to be in what can only be described as deplorable condition.

And, the problem was not restricted to low-income or financially troubled areas.

Restrooms that were missing toilet paper and paper towels, covered in graffiti, and generally filthy were found in some of the most upscale neighborhoods in the Los Angeles area, as well as poorer areas.

A similar television investigation was recently conducted by FOX 10 news in Phoenix, AZ.

Although the restroom problems were not as severe as they were in California, the report definitely raised some eyebrows and concerns.

### Schools flunk the test — again

In the Phoenix study, several surfaces in the school restrooms of three upscale school districts were tested for evidence of urine during the school day. The swabs were then taken to a local laboratory for evaluation.

According to William Humble of the Arizona Department of Health Services, "Finding urine on several surfaces [in a restroom] is an indication that bacteria and viruses have traveled. This has the potential of spreading E.coli, Hepatitis A, and other diseases, and can have more serious implications for children with asthma or weakened immune systems."

The laboratory found evidence of urine on virtually every surface in the restrooms of two districts — on floors, faucets, counters, hand dryers, fixtures, and door handles.

However, one district, Paradise Valley Unified School District, did amazingly well. In this district, the laboratory found evidence of urine only around the toilet, on the floor and on the inside of a door handle.

Even more impressive is the fact that this district's schools were tested in the afternoon; the other two were tested in the morning, when the restrooms ought to have been less contaminated by use.

### Why the 'A'?

The television crew was surprised that the one district had done so well when the other two had failed so miserably.

After all, the three districts were very similar economically and demographically, and the school buildings were about the same age.

Curious, the reporters decided to find out what accounted for the discrepancy. What they discovered was that although the three districts were indeed similar, the methods used to clean the school restrooms were not.

While the failing schools used traditional cleaning methods such as sprayers, rags, mops, and buckets, the Paradise Valley schools employed the No-Touch Cleaning™ system developed by Kaivac, Inc., Hamilton, OH.

With this system, restroom surfaces are never touched. The machine applies cleaning agents to all surfaces — fixtures, walls, partitions, mirrors

and floors.

The areas are then rinsed, blasting away grit, grime, and bacteria, which is

then vacuumed up using the machines built-in wet/dry vacuum.

By cleaning surfaces so much more thoroughly, the No-Touch system not only helps prevent the germ build-up that leads to serious contamination, but also helps prevent the spread of bacteria equat-

ed with such surfaces.

### Cleaner and faster, too!

According to Wayne Moffet with American Building Maintenance (ABM), the contractor that cleans 27 of the 49 schools in the Paradise Valley School district, "We use the Kaivac No-Touch system in all of the restrooms; it's how we keep them clean and healthy."

Moffett indicated that, after a couple of cleanings with the No-Touch system, almost all soil, germs, and bacteria are eliminated.

"Not only are the restrooms left cleaner with the No-Touch Cleaning system, the work is done much faster as well," he said.

"On a daily basis, I bet we save 50 percent to as much as 70 percent on time and labor cleaning the school restrooms."

He added that using the Kaivac No-Touch system has helped him bid more competitively because it has helped reduce labor costs as it produces higher-quality results.

"I am a huge advocate of the No-Touch system and mention its features and benefits when marketing our services to all types of facilities," he said. □



This content was provided by Kaivac as part of a paid advertisement.  
For more information, please contact Kaivac directly at (800) 287-1136 or [www.kaivac.com](http://www.kaivac.com).