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call 'turbulent'. It bounces off the insides of the wand's shoe, which slows airflow through the wand and limits carpet cleaning performance. "This puts greater burden on the extractor to compensate for this turbulent airflow," says Hanig.

However, this has been corrected through the use of 'laminar technology', notes Hanig. "This technology was first used in aircraft design. The goal was to have a smooth, uninterrupted flow of air over the contour of the airplane's wings and fuselage.

"As it applies to carpet wands, laminar technology allows airflow to flow more smoothly through the wand," explains Hanig. "This allows the vacuum system being used to operate at optimized performance, more efficiently removing moisture and soils from the carpet in the cleaning process."

Hanig adds that the development of laminar technology has resulted in some engineering surprises. "One [carpet extractor] manufacturer received a higher, more coveted rating from the Carpet and Rug Institute's Seal of Approval Program just by adding a laminar wand to their system."

Hopefully, you should now realise that wands cannot be overlooked, but instead should be viewed as a very crucial component in proper carpet extraction. Additionally, wands are now available that are much lighter and ergonomic, making carpet cleaning far less taxing. And, finally, by incorporating more advanced airflow technologies, carpet cleaning performance can be improved rather dramatically.

*\* Robert Krantz is a writer for the professional cleaning, building, education, and healthcare industries.*

**JETS**

After testing different wands and selecting the system that appears to be easiest to use, technicians still must examine the tool's performance. There are critical considerations that can impact performance, in particular, the number of jets and the distance of the jets from the carpet's surface.

With a single-jet wand, the jet may be so close to the carpet that the spray will provide very limited coverage. In fact, the spray may not even spread from one edge of the wand to the other.

The big problem this creates is obvious: more work for the carpet cleaning technician. The technician will have to pay close attention to wanding procedures to make sure there is enough overlap to ensure that the spray reaches all areas of the carpet. Usually this means multiple strokes.

Multi-jet wands can have their own sets of issues. With a multi-jet wand, the spray from each individual jet must spread enough to intersect with the spray from adjoining jets. If the spray from each jet does not properly intersect or is uneven, the end result can be areas of the carpet are left soiled. With some multi-jet wands, this problem can be rectified if the solution pressure from the extractor is high enough to ensure sufficient spray spread to the wand. (See sidebar on wand secrets)

**AIRFLOW ISSUES**

A final and very important issue receiving much closer attention is the airflow travelling through the wand. Engineers now realise airflow and how it travels through the wand. Engineers now realise the effectiveness of the extractor.

On most wands still made today, the airflow is what scientists would