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HOW GOOD DESIGN CAN ELIMINATE INEFFICIENCY



Productivity is everything in the medical and care industries.

Clinicians and care workers have high demands but are time poor. Every second counts, especially when it comes to maintaining the health and wellbeing of the elderly and those recovering from an operation or illness.

Wasted time through poor process, lack of process or the inadequate provision of resources puts undue strain on an already over stretched system.

If every member of a team wastes two or three minutes every time they complete a poorly planned task that amounts to hours wasted every day not to mention squandered budget.

The clinicians themselves are likely to be frustrated too. After all, they want to spend their time caring, not dealing with tasks and processes that don't work as well as they could.

Poorly designed (and positioned) sluice/dirty utility rooms are a common source of wasted time and incredible frustration for clinicians.

Often viewed as a mandatory inconvenience by some, the reality is that a well thought out, well-appointed sluice/dirty utility room can eliminate inefficiencies, boosting productivity and easing those irksome pain points for your staff.

It's all about Flow

To be at its most effective a sluice/dirty utility room needs to be located in a central point to ensure ease of access and the shortest distance possible between bed and disposal.

The further a clinician or carer has to walk, carrying potentially infectious material increases the chances of harmful microbes spreading or infecting someone else in the facility. Including the clinician.

Sensible decision making regarding infection control at the design stage of a new development is key.

Moreover, the best sluice/dirty utility rooms are designed to take the clinician around the room, allowing them to dispose of infectious material, sanitise and move out again, quickly and efficiently. The operation should very much be a 'dirty in, clean out' process.

Moving back and forth across the room – as opposed to moving around it in a linear fashion - not only wastes time but could also result in recontamination. This in turn causes the spread of infectious material around the sluice/dirty utility room and the hospital ward or care home

Planning out exactly where your machinery, sinks, counters and clean storage will sit is incredibly important to the effectiveness of your sluice/dirty utility room solution.

The Right Tool for the Job

Of course, the most efficiently designed sluice/dirty utility room in the world is useless if you aren't using the right technology to dispose of your infectious material.

Working with someone like DDC Dolphin allows you to objectively assess footfall and waste volumes to make an informed decision about which type solution is right for you.

High traffic, high capacity areas may well benefit from a pulp macerator as it allows clinicians a 'fire and forget' way of working. They can set the pulp macerator going and carry on with their duties.



Because the pulp is washed into the drains there are no bedpans to empty and therefore no backlog of soiled bedpans waiting to be cleaned.

Whichever option you prefer – or are recommended, working with a professional to assess your needs and design your sluice/dirty utility room is vital to its successful and efficient operation.

Keeping You Running

Efficiencies come in many forms, the most fundamental of which is reliability.

If a solution works, then it solves the problem. If the problem is time – or lack thereof – then a reliable device that you can count on, not only saves time but boosts confidence and improves morale.

Making sure your bedpan washer or pulp macerator works time and time again is the ultimate time saver when it comes to delivering day to day care for patients or service users.

Poor quality machines that fail or block cause misery for clinicians and dramatically increase the risk of outbreak. That failure also costs a fortune to put right as clean up, decontamination, redecoration, machinery repairs and lost time whilst clinicians use an alternative sluice/dirty utility room will quickly mount up.

Reliable technologies that are well maintained through regular servicing and planned preventative maintenance keep those failures to an absolute minimum.

To learn more about our products and services click [here](#). Alternatively, to speak to one of our sluice/dirty utility solution experts contact us today.

Contact Details: -

Tel: +44 1202 731555

E-mail: info@ddcdolphin.com

Website: www.ddcdolphin.com



DDC Dolphin Ltd, The Fulcrum, Vantage Way, Poole, Dorset, BH12 4NU, United Kingdom.