

Mitsubishi Electric keeps it quiet for child health

Primary schools, family restaurants and leisure facilities are turning to the Mitsubishi Electric Jet Towel high power hand dryers, whose whisper quiet operation is unlikely to disturb or scare young children.

Research shows that noisy dryers can frighten young children into risking their own health and that of their friends, by not washing and drying their hands properly in public conveniences.

Generally children are happy to wash their hands, if they have been encouraged to do so from an early age. However they can easily be distracted and an occasional omission can soon turn into a regular bad habit.

Fawn Litchfield of Mitsubishi Electric explains the psychology: "Very young children are taken to the toilet by a parent or other appropriate adult, but as independently minded little adventurers keen to grow up they are soon chomping at the bit to go alone.

"But when you are only three feet tall a public bathroom can be quite intimidating. Unknown adults tower over you, sinks and dryers are too high up for comfort – then if a high speed dryer screams into action it can all be just too much!" High powered dryers are favoured in facilities regularly used by children because of their speed of drying, which means the children do not get bored and run off with still-wet hands. However as a general rule they are far louder in operation than a conventional dryer.

Jet Towel ticks several boxes for facilities managers with a young user profile. Firstly it is quiet, operating at a low 58dB and 61dB in high speed mode, which is the same volume as conversational speech, making it one of the quietest high-speed hand dryers on the market.

"The new Mark 8 Jet Towels even have new hyper-nozzle designs, which make the airflow more laminar, to really minimise noise," says Fawn.

Also the speed of drying is important to kids, as they want to be off exploring. A Jet Towel will dry small hands from only 9 seconds, compared to 30 or so for a traditional dryer.

"The novelty value of Jet Towel also scores big with children. Instead of holding your hands in boring a flow of heated air, you pop them into a chamber where they are illuminated by a blue light that shows hands are correctly in position and hit with a high speed blast and the water is blown away. How cool is that!"

In the grown-up world of facilities management, the low energy consumption is usually the deciding factor - that or the stylish look of the unit.

For head teachers the attraction is hygiene, anything that reduces the risk of a bug going around the school is worth its weight in GCSEs. And restaurant and leisure facility managers don't want to be facing the accusation of being the source of illness.

About Mitsubishi Jet Towel

Mitsubishi Electric's first Jet Towel was launched in 1993 and the version now available in Europe is in the eighth generation of its development. It has proved a winner with installers for its high tech elegance, with operators for its low running cost and reliability, and with users for its convenience, speed, hygiene and innovative design. The Jet Towel has high environmental credentials, avoiding the use of paper towels or rolled cloth and lowering power consumption and noise levels to a fraction of alternative hot air dryers.

Further Information

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