



Re: Technical Developments in Fixtures

Hello all,

Wanted to share 2 interesting developments gathered from the recent Restroom Asia exhibition here in Singapore:

1. From TOTO, a new range of urinals and WCs with highly glazed surfaces that prevent even minute dirt and waste particles from clinging. TOTO says that their so-called Resistain surfaces have 100% more glazing than conventional fixtures and are 1000 times smoother than a regular ceramic surface.

Claimed benefits are the use of less water and detergents for cleaning. This concept may even extend to claim that there is no need for Toilet Maintainers (like sanitizers) to keep the surfaces stain and bacteria free.

If this development is an indication of what we shall have in the future, then the customer needs that can be expected to be more emphasized are waste digestion and trap maintenance. Our lead in Bioenzymatic technology (with BioTabs and EcoBlue) is therefore an advantage and which we should continue to enhance.

We could also expect that odour control products and systems (air fresheners) will be more in demand.

2. From American Standard and Johnson Wax Professional, the Washbrook Waterless Urinal, which eliminates the need for water to flush, requiring just once a day mild cleaning.

Firstly, the fixture is said to have a specially-designed smooth surface that shields the urinal exterior from water deposits, urine accumulations and bacterial residues.

Then the trap has a special construction consisting of a detachable and disposable cylindrical cartridge. Initially, the cartridge is filled with water and a sealant liquid that floats on the top.

When the urinal is used, the cartridge acts as a funnel, allowing liquid from the bowl to flow into the cartridge. As urine enters the cartridge, it flows underneath

the sealant liquid, which creates a barrier between the urine and open air. This seal supposedly eliminate odours from coming out of the drain.

At the bottom of the cartridge is a screen that acts as a filter for uric sediment. This is claimed to help in reducing drain pipe corrosion as the uric sediment would have otherwise contributed to this problem.

I learned that they have ongoing trials together with the PWD for some time now at the Adam Road Food Centre toilets-- a heavily used facility.

The cartridge is good for 7000 uses and should be replaced based on this.

To try to promote our BioTabs with this set-up may be not appropriate as the liquid sealant is biodegradable. Our hungry and active bacteria will breakdown the sealant.

Perhaps a more feasible proposal is not to have the liquid sealant at all, and just have our BioTabs, perhaps with a modified formulation. This will result in the urine being digested and odours controlled.

Let's keep in touch with these developments and think how we can best position ourselves.

For more information on BIOTABS, please log on @ <http://www.calfarme.net/biotabspink.htm>

Regards,
Calfarme