

Sevier County's new laundry ups production; Cuts inventory expense in half

A newly equipped on-premise laundry at Sevier County Sheriff's Department in Sevierville, Tenn., will likely cut the 250-bed correctional facility's yearly inventory and detergent expenditures in half, according to Paul Lintner, manager of food service and laundry. "We didn't realize our new laundry equipment would save us money," says Lintner, "but the new machines have made us so much more efficient, we are."

Sevier County, which typically spends \$20,000 per year re-supplying inventory such as inmate uniforms, towels, sheets and blankets, expects to spend only \$10,000 this year. That, coupled with a 50 percent savings in cleaning chemicals, is a direct result of the facility's new high-efficiency, soft-mount Continental laundry equipment.

Everything in the laundry room is more organized and efficient, thanks to its two new 55-pound, soft-mount Continental

Pro-Series washer-extractors and two 75-pound dryers.

Soft-mount washer-extractors reach extract speeds up to 387 G-force, almost four times greater than many standard hard-mount machines. This means soft mounts remove considerably more water during extraction than hard mounts, according to Jeff Large of East Tennessee Laundry, the Continental distributor who installed Sevier County's new equipment.

"The clothes come out of the washer-extractors nearly dry," says Lintner. "Now it takes 20 minutes to dry a big, huge load," says Lintner. "It used to take an hour." Less time in the dryer reduces gas consumption and minimizes wear and tear on new equipment. More importantly, says Lintner, towels, sheets, uniforms and blankets experience less abuse—saving the jail drastically on replacement inventory.

The washer-extractors are not only gentler on the laundry, they get it cleaner, maintains Lintner. "Our wool blankets used to tangle and tear in the washer," he says. "Now they come out

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correctional facilities



Paul Lintner (left), Sevier County's manager of food service and laundry and Jeff Large of East Tennessee Laundry



Sevier County's two 55-pound, soft-mount Continental Pro-Series™ Washer-Extractors and two 75-pound dryers have boosted the facility's production and slashed utilities.



undamaged. As a result, we're saving all kinds of money on uniform and blanket replacements."

Also key to Sevier County's new laundry operation is the ability to program equipment for easy operation. The machines were programmed by a local chemical company to automatically inject the appropriate amount of cleaning chemicals, at the right cycle time, water temperature, and level, based on the type of load. "The automatic injection saves time by shortening the wash cycle, makes for accurate washes and allows the jail to budget detergent expense," says Large.

Inmates "simply hit the button and let it go," Lintner says. "When our laundry man is scheduled for release, I have the new attendant work with him for a day," says Lintner. "It's really simple."

Thanks to careful planning and the right equipment mix, Sevier County's on-premise laundry is more efficient and cost-effective than ever before. The new equipment has bolstered productivity so much, says Lintner, inmates have clothes washed three times more often each week. By installing highly efficient Continental laundry equipment, the jail is expected to slash inventory and chemical expenditures in half, despite doing inmates' laundry more frequently. That, according to Lintner, is a welcome surprise!