

Girbau completely overhauls the laundry in the Naval Hospital in Ferrol in a turnkey project



Girbau was the company chosen to overhaul the laundry in the Naval Hospital in Ferrol in a turnkey project where it took charge of managing the whole operation, from building work to installing the machinery, and coordinating and supervising all the processes and partners involved. The results speak for themselves: water savings, an improved washing process and substantial improvements in ergonomics.

"We are currently washing some 3,000 kg of linen a day. It was a very big change, as we went from a very domestic laundry going back over 30 years where everything was washed in machines with no sanitary barrier and folded by hand. Now it's changed totally and automation of all the processes is making the employees' job much easier."

—Belén González,
Head of the laundry
department at the
Naval Hospital in Ferrol



Girbau, world leader in professional laundry solutions, worked with the Naval Hospital in Ferrol to fully overhaul its laundry, in order to boost productivity by fitting out a new facility. To do this, in a public tendering process Girbau drew up a turnkey project in which it took charge of the every aspect of this project, from co-ordinating and supervising civil engineering, including demolition, construction and safety on site, through to fitting out all the facilities and installing a full range of latest-generation machinery and theoretical and practical training to get the most out of the machines and achieve savings targets.

This model, under which Girbau will continue to carry out weekly maintenance for 2 years, made it possible to create a new, highly automated laundry to provide the best possible washing process in a shorter time, but without sacrificing cleaning quality and delivering substantial improvements in ergonomics for staff. All this is possible thanks to the transformation of the laundry, switching from a conventional commercial operation to an industrial laundry. The new laundry is located in some former kitchens and adjoining rooms, in a different laundry from the existing one. This called for a new installation for water, electricity and gas supplies, a steam boiler, compressed air and air conditioning for the laundry.

The refitting of the premises involved a complete redistribution of the space (floors, walls, ceiling, ventilation, lighting, etc.) for the new laundry, which is equipped with changing rooms, kitchen, dining room, bathrooms, store, chemicals room and control room. At the same time, some washing machines were kept for the washing area and new Girbau equipment installed: a TBS50 batch washer with capacity for about 50 kilos of linen



every three or four minutes, approximately, and featuring the Drain Intercooler system, a water-water exchanger to exploit the heat energy in waste water to preheat incoming water, achieving a 30% saving in energy in the process. An SPR50 water extraction press makes it possible to work with shorter drying cycles, so saving energy, a CED+ 11.4 shuttle lifting conveyor ensures efficient distribution of linen cakes coming from the water extraction press and three ST1302 dryers finish drying the linen efficiently and very quickly. The dry linen is carried by a belt system to a picking area for distribution to the two PC120 flatwork ironers in the laundry, one of them with an automatic feeding system, which are low-maintenance and achieve a perfect ironed finish.

As regards ergonomics, two of the three ST1302 model dryers are equipped with the Suction Loading system, which allows simple, easy and ergonomic loading in little more than 30 seconds, independently of the batch washing process, so making drying more flexible. Installing several folders and the batch uniform system has facilitated work that used to be done manually. Another new feature in comparison to the old laundry is that in this installation dirty linen is not handled but put into bags that open by themselves in the batch washer so that the linen is already sorted in the washing machines. Once clean, the linen is separated using a system of conveyor belts and a separation table.

The new Girbau machinery has had great results in terms of both productivity and cost savings, delivering a cut of about 10% in the use of steam and gas for drying, a 35% cut in the gas used for ironing and a 40% cut in water use for the whole washing process.

"It was a challenge for us to carry out a project on this scale by the deadline specified, as we had very little time. It also posed a challenge not only from the point of view of installing the machinery, but for the whole intangible area of coordination and advice to provide solutions and fit out a completely new space for the laundry, handing over the keys to the client with everything completed so that they didn't have to worry about a thing."

—Carles Guixà,
Project Engineering
Manager at Girbau



Technical details

- **ICP4+** Loading conveyor
- **TBS50** Batch washer
- **SPR50** Water extraction press
- **CED+11.4** Shuttle lifting conveyor
- **ST1302** Dryers
- **DRBS2** Feeder
- **PC120** Ironer
- **FRB** Flatwork linen folders
- **FTS-106/G** Uniform finishing system
- **VARIOFOLD** Uniform folder
- **FTTOPFOLD** Towel folder