

A Water Conversion Case Study

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Lourdes Hospital Paducah, Kentucky

“Conservacap was such an effective low-cost solution that the hospital was able to schedule a standing order for 20 units each month without affecting our budget and then have our staff install them without interfering with their current work load.”

Description:

The Lourdes Hospital, in Paducah, Kentucky, serves as a regional referral center for a wide geographic region, including more than a dozen counties in Kentucky, southern Illinois, southeastern Missouri and northwest Tennessee. Because of this fact, Lourdes offers an extensive array of medical specialists & technologies typically found in much larger urban settings.

The 389-bed hospital employs a full time staff of 1,500, including 342 Registered nurses and 7 pharmacists.

Retrofit Goals:

Hospital management’s prior tests of **Conservacap** had proven the product easy to install and effective in reducing water use, while at the same time maintaining excellent functionality. The five story hospital had an average of 40 fixtures per floor for a total fixture count of 200 units.

It was decided that the hospital could purchase twenty units per month out of its general expense fund without having to budget additional costs. It was also agreed that the hospital’s staff would be able to convert ½ floors (20 fixtures) per month without taxing their ongoing maintenance workload.

In April of 2003, the renovation began. That month and each month thereafter, twenty of the hospital’s water closets, that had been using 3½ to 4½ gpf, were converted to use 2¾ gpf effectively. This renovation was accomplished by installing new Sloan A-38-A repair kits and replacing the flush valve’s inner cap with a new **2.75 Conservacap**.

Constraints:

The only constraints for this project were the cost factors. Despite the fact that there were no funds available in the hospital’s budget for this water renovation work, because the projected savings would return the cost of the renovation within less than a year, the project was given the green light.

The only consideration required was determining a size for the renovation’s installments that would NOT tax the general expense fund or the maintenance staff’s work load.

Results:

This water renovation project was installed by the hospital’s staff over a 10 month period. In addition to installing new A-38-A kits and **2.75 Conservacap**, system leaks (stops, spuds and handle kits) were repaired or replaced when and wherever needed.

Minimum water savings for this renovation are projected to be over 42,800 gallons per week or over 2,220,000 gallons of water per year. Based on the Hospital’s current

water/sewer rate of approximately \$3.85 per thousand gallons, these water savings will produce an estimated cost savings of approximately \$10,000 per year. This will pay back the initial project investment of \$4,600 in less than 6 months.

In addition, maintenance savings from this domestic water renovation could be substantial. Because of its durability, **Conservacap’s** unconditional warranty of 5 years is one of the longest of any product in the plumbing industry.

Environmental:

The environmental impact of this project is significant. Over a ten-year period, the renovation will save more than 22,000,000 gallons of water and based on projected increases in water/sewer costs could save the hospital over \$150,000 in water/sewer expense alone.



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