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HVAC

THE COTTAGES ON GOLDEN POND

Easy Breathing: How One Assisted Living Facility Partnered With Ferguson for Cleaner Indoor Air Quality

■ Introduction

A potential concern for any facility is the spread of airborne contaminants. This can be a greater concern when the facility is home to an at-risk health population, such as in assisted living facilities. See how Ferguson applied indoor air quality (IAQ) technology in one assisted living facility to reduce airborne contaminants and achieved tangible results.

■ The Customer

Located in Shiwano, Wisconsin, The Cottages on Golden Pond is an assisted living facility that is home to about 65 residents across a total of 55 units. The facility is staffed by approximately 20 staff members and is designed to offer an independent lifestyle to those who need in-home health care and dementia care.

■ The Challenge

Phil Peterson, facilities director for The Cottages, wanted to find a solution to prevent the spread of airborne contaminants, including COVID-19. No visitors had been allowed inside since March 2020, which they knew was unsustainable. The goal was to take as many precautions as possible to protect the residents and staff.

■ The Solution

In early 2020, Peterson reached out to Fran Lindquist, owner of Lindquist Plumbing and Heating in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Lindquist had been performing the plumbing and heating maintenance service at The Cottages facilities for several years and was familiar with their setup. Lindquist contacted his local plumbing and HVAC parts supplier, Ferguson Outside Salesperson Mike Lange, for help with finding the right products to use as a potential solution, and Lange brought in Justin Reedy, indoor air quality subject matter expert, for additional expertise.

Lindquist and Lange worked with Reedy to conduct an initial consultation of the facility. After looking at the total size of the building and the furnaces that circulate the air, the recommendation was to install iWave-C NeedlePoint BiPolar Ionization devices from Nu-Calgon. One iWave-C was installed through the side of the furnace cabinet on six furnaces in one building and five furnaces in the adjoining facility next door.

■ The Benefit

NeedlePoint BiPolar Ionization, or NBPI, is a type of technology that improves indoor air quality. NBPI was recommended for The Cottages because it safely cleans indoor air by producing a high concentration of positive and negative ions that are then delivered to a space via the ventilation system. It then broadcasts millions of ions through needlepoint brushes to proactively disinfect what is in the air and on surfaces, disabling pathogens from replicating.

■ The Results

As the facilities director, Peterson had routinely made sure furnace filters were changed monthly as part of regular maintenance routines leading up to the installation of NBPI equipment. After learning that NPBI would cause small particles in the air to bond together and become large particles, Peterson expected the filters would be dirtier sooner than usual if the NPBI process worked. His expectation was correct. The filters were dirtier after one week than they usually were after a full month. Peterson expressed his satisfaction with the results and said, “These things work as advertised. We’re very pleased with the results so far and will be looking at adding these devices to our other buildings very soon.”

■ Conclusion

The NuCalgon iWave-C NeedlePoint BiPolar Ionization devices that were installed satisfied the facilities director in terms of their ability to increase the amount of airborne contaminants removed from the air. The residents and staff of The Cottages on Golden Pond now have cleaner air – and filters that need to be changed more often – because of the Ferguson salesperson’s recommendation to install the NBPI devices in conjunction with the plumbing and HVAC professionals.



NeedlePoint BiPolar Ionization devices were installed on furnaces in the facility to remove air contaminants.



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