

Small Case Study Published in *Cleaning Maintenance Management Magazine*

In February 2009, the *New York Times* reported that the state of California has a projected deficit of \$41 billion. The article went on to say that even smaller states are “in the hole;” Illinois, for example, has a deficit of about \$10 billion.

States are examining strategies to help cut costs to make it through this tough period. This includes cleaning. Some states are now considering or have already implemented Day Cleaning systems because they allow state buildings to be shut down entirely each evening—saving



substantially on lighting, heating, and other energy-related costs—and cleaning workers do not have to be paid an evening differential for working at night.

However, the process of switching from night or conventional cleaning to Day Cleaning poses some problems. One of the biggest concerns is noise. Some studies have found that vacuum cleaners and floorcare equipment can be distracting to building occupants when used during the day. Further, the electrical cords to power these machines can pose serious safety concerns. Some government locations have reported accidents with staff members tripping over cords.

To meet these Day Cleaning challenges, one Midwest government office turned to battery-powered cleaning equipment. At least with battery-powered machines, there are no cords to trip over, eliminating that safety issue. However, battery-powered cleaning equipment is still in its infancy. Some machines have proved to be underpowered and bulky to use. They have short run times—negatively impacting worker productivity—and charging the equipment can take several

hours. In addition, the batteries used on some cleaning machines are not considered eco-friendly.

However, this government office found many of these problems were eliminated with the Tornado Industries® BR 17 Glazer, a key component of Tornado's *Essentials Line* of products. This is a surprisingly small, easy-to-use floor machine with a substantial two-hour run time—enough time to clean 15,000 square feet. The BR 17 Glazer uses a maintenance-free gel battery that is safer for the user and the environment. The built-in charger allows the machine to be recharged in less than

As to performance, the BR 17 Glazer is rated at 1,500 rpm, fast enough to produce a “glass top” shine on most floors. And the machine is whisper quiet, just 59 decibels. In fact, when the BR 17 Glazer was introduced at last year's ISSA tradeshow, many attendees said it was so quiet, they did not even know it was running.

And there is an added benefit to the BR 17 Glazer. Like most government facilities, the location that used it was transferring not only to Day Cleaning but to Green cleaning as well. The BR 17 Glazer has an integrated dust-control system that collects floor dust and soils while the machine is being used. This protects indoor air quality, making the machine a key component in Green cleaning.

Day Cleaning systems can help cut costs, but they have not worked in every setting. The equipment noise and cords have been challenges. However, using equipment such as the BR 17 Glazer, which is quiet, effective, and cordless, is making Day Cleaning more acceptable.