



Project Spotlight: Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin

Chicago Faucets SSPS power supply saves \$35,000 in electrical wiring costs.

Located in southeastern Wisconsin, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin regional health care network is made up of Froedtert Hospital, Milwaukee; Community Memorial Hospital, Menomonee Falls; St. Joseph's Hospital, West Bend; and more than 25 primary and specialty care health centers and clinics. The health network's three hospitals have 784 staffed beds, nearly 40,000 annual admissions and, more than 930,000 annual outpatient visits.

The Challenge

To address continuing demand for its services, the healthcare network implemented a number of expansion and renovation projects in 2020.

Froedtert Hospital needed to add reliable touch-free faucets on the exterior of certain patient rooms. Mandatory and monitored handwashing before and after entering patient rooms is required by the hospital for all caregivers and visitors to help prevent the spread of infection.

The expansion required new plumbing for the touch-free electronic faucets. The hospital considered and rejected battery-powered faucets, concerned that they wouldn't be reliable enough, especially if the faucets are not used regularly. Installing electricity and wiring to power hard-wired faucets, on the other hand, would cost more and take longer than battery-powered faucets.



"It was definitely a challenge," says Scott Altenberger, Project Manager, Plant Operations for the hospital. "We would have to bring in additional power just for the faucets. Plus, we also needed the ability to monitor their performance and functioning on a regular basis to maintain hand-washing and hygiene standards."

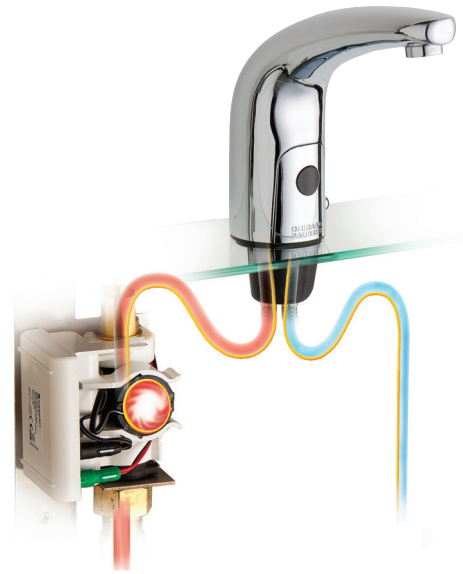
Altenberger needed wireless, self-sustaining faucets that saved installation costs, energy, and water and were easy to install in tight spaces. In addition, the faucets had to be ADA compliant and meet drinkability standards, low-lead requirements, and current building codes.

The Solution

Altenberger and Froedtert Hospital selected HyTronic® faucets with a Self Sustaining Power System (SSPS), from Chicago Faucets. The SSPS uses the flow of water to create and store power: a cross-flow water turbine generates the necessary power, providing optimal power generation even at low flow rates. There is no need to replace batteries, supply backup batteries, or wire the faucet to the building's power supply. Even after long terms of non-use the unit activates the faucet and generates power.

Fifty-three deck-mounted HyTronic® faucets with gooseneck spouts were installed in the patient areas of the North Tower and West Hospital building. The faucets feature a water-saving, hygienic 1.5 gpm (5.7 L/min) laminar flow. Eight E-Tronic®40 faucets with SSPS and a 0.5 gpm (1.9L/min) flow rate were installed in the public restroom areas for even more water savings. Thanks to the SSPS from Chicago Faucets, Froedtert Hospital saved about \$35,000 in electrical wiring costs.

Chicago Faucets Commander™, a handheld programming unit, is compatible with HyTronic and E-Tronic faucets. Using Commander, maintenance personnel can enable unique modes like Clean Mode, Scrub Mode, or Water Saver Mode, customizing each faucet for its environment or unique application requirements. Data can be transferred from Commander to a PC, allowing the creation of usage reports and maintenance records.



"Monitoring the faucets is easy using the Commander. We can scan the faucets many times a day and provide the maintenance or repair needed to keep the units running. And through usage history we can gauge where future units should be installed or if units are not being used and assess the reasons."

Scott Altenberger
Project Manager, Plant Operations

The American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) recognized Froedtert Hospital through its Energy Efficiency Challenge (E2C) program for the reduction of energy consumption. As part of the program and to encourage frequent handwashing, Froedtert Hospital placed a plaque above each faucet that reads: **This Faucet Uses The Flow of Water To Generate Power and Conserve Energy.**

Our Commitment to Conservation and Sustainability

Chicago Faucets has a long-standing commitment to water conservation and sustainability. An extensive product offering incorporates low-flow outlets, adjustable metering cartridges, and sensor-operated faucets that conserve water by limiting the flow rate and controlling operation time.

Chicago Faucets is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, developer of The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.™ Chicago Faucets also partners with WaterSense®, a program sponsored by the EPA, and promotes water efficiency by enhancing the market for water efficient products, programs, and practices. We are also a charter sponsor of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, a non-profit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water.



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Chicago Faucets, a member of the Geberit Group, is the leading brand of commercial faucets and fittings in the United States, offering a complete range of products for schools, laboratories, hospitals, office buildings, food service, airports, and sports facilities. Whatever your requirements may be, Chicago Faucets offers standard and made-to-order products that are designed to meet any commercial application.

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