

GREEN STAR[®]

ALASKA HOSPITALITY P2 SUCCESS STORY



UPDATED JUNE 2010

THE DAYS INN ANCHORAGE

Days Inn & Automated Laundry Introduce Ozone to Anchorage Hospitality Industry

Leading The Way

Dennis Lavey at the Days Inn first heard about ozone back in 1997, when a nephew of his was stationed on an aircraft carrier that was using ozone in its laundry. He got together with Dick Wells, from Automated Laundry to investigate installing a system at the Days Inn. At the time they decided an ozone system would be too costly to purchase and maintain. After tracking commercial use of ozone for several years, both the Days Inn and Automated Laundry finally felt comfortable with the technology on the market and the lowered prices. In 2004, they installed one of the first ozone laundry systems in Anchorage. To track real water usage, the Days Inn placed water meters on its laundry water lines before installing the ozone system. Both Mr. Lavey and Mr. Wells were pleased with the findings.

Ozone Laundry Systems

Ozone systems inject ozone into laundry water to activate detergents and enhance cleaning cycles. Ozone activates detergents to break down dirt without high water temperatures. It also kills bacteria and slightly opens the weave of fabrics to make linens softer to touch and easier to clean and dry. With ozone, the colder the water is, the better ozone works making it an ideal system in Alaska where tap and well water can be as cold as 35°F.

Ozone laundry systems are able to reduce the amount of hot water necessary to approximately 6-15% of the total water used. These systems also work with less water than conventional washes and thus can reduce overall water consumption. While ozone activates detergents during the wash cycle, it also cleans the water of detergents in effluent water.

Reducing Water Consumption

Prior to installing the ozone system, the Days Inn was using approximately 1,864,420 gallons of water each year. After installing the ozone system, water use dropped to an average of 806,650 gallons of water per year. That is a savings of 1,057,770 gallons or 56%. When the system was installed, the Days Inn was paying \$0.0058 per gallon for its water and sewer bill. The ozone system saved the hotel \$6,135 annually in water and sewer costs.

Ozone is a process with diverse applications. It has been used for bottled water treatment, cleaning poultry plants, military laundry and cleaning space shuttle parachutes.

Reducing Energy Consumption

While the Days Inn experienced significant savings on its water and sewer bill, savings from the reduction in hot water use is even more significant. Detergents typically are activated by high water temperatures; but ozone activates detergents in lower temperatures, reducing the need for high temperature washes.

Prior to installing the ozone system, the Days Inn was using 767,230 gallons of hot water annually. After installing the ozone system, the Days Inn was using 69,715 gallons of hot water annually. That's an annual savings of 1,911 gallons or 90% of hot water.

The system was installed when Days Inn was paying \$0.5076/cf for gas. At this rate the hotel was paying approximately \$3,038 per year to heat laundry water. After installing the ozone laundry system, (at the same rate) the hotel was spending \$276 per year, for a savings of \$2762 per year.



Wall-mounted ozone laundry systems



Key Players

Dennis Lavey, Days Inn Anchorage, (907) 265-5146

Dick Wells, Automated Laundry Systems & Supply, (907) 561-1752, dick@autolaundrysystems.com

Green Star is an Anchorage-based non-profit organization dedicated to assisting, certifying and recognizing businesses committed to resource efficiency and environmental leadership.



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