

GREEN STAR[®]

ALASKA HOSPITALITY P2 SUCCESS STORY



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FAIRBANKS QUALITY INN

Quality Inn & Automated Laundry Bring Ozone to Fairbanks Hospitality Industry

Leading The Way

After hearing about the success of ozone laundry systems in Anchorage, the Quality Inn (then Best Western Fairbanks Inn) decided to install its own system in 2005. Despite a name change, the hotel continues to reduce operating costs while reducing its impact on the local environment using its ozone laundry system.

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.

Since ozone systems use lower water temperatures and reduce drying times, ozone systems are less harsh on fabrics, creating less lint in drying cycles and extending the life of linens by as much as double.

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 Water Consumption

Prior to installing the ozone system, the Quality Inn was using approximately 908,658 gallons of water each year. After installing the ozone system the hotel was using an average of 414,428 gallons of water per year. That is a savings of 494,230 gallons or 54%.

When the system was installed, the Quality Inn was paying \$0.01309 per gallon for water and sewer. The ozone system saved the hotel approximately \$6470 annually in water and sewer costs.

Reducing Energy Consumption

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

Prior to installing the ozone system, the Quality Inn was using approximately 640,670 gallons of hot water annually. After installing the ozone system the Days Inn was using approximately 41,576 gallons of hot water annually. That's a savings of 599,094 gallons of hot water per year or 93% of the hotel's hot water!

The system was installed when the Quality Inn was paying \$2.221 per gallon for fuel oil or \$.01314 to heat a gallon of water. At this rate the hotel was paying approximately \$8,418 per year to heat its laundry water. After installing the ozone laundry system, the hotel was spending a total of \$546 per year (at the same rate), for a savings of \$7,872 per year.

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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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