



Cleaning Stairs 86 Days Faster

Like so many cities, Columbus, OH, has been cutting or eliminating funds for cleaning for several years. In their 345,000-square-foot municipal courthouse, to save money the city decided to clean the 57 flights of stairs in the 19-story building on an occasional basis—at best.

However, after years of neglect, the stairs had become home to vagrants, who even designated certain landings as “restroom” areas. “The stairs were horrible,” says Rich Swain, a cleaning consultant called in by the city to help correct the problem. “You had to see the stairs or see pictures of them to believe how bad they were.”



With complaints mounting, the city decided it had to take emergency measures to tackle the problem. One approach considered was sandblasting the area—which indicates just how bad the stairs, banisters, and railings had become. However, because of the disruption it would cause, that was ruled out in favor of trying to clean them.

“The lowest bid the city got for cleaning the stairs was \$7,500,” says Swain. “The contractor could not guarantee the outcome of the cleaning, and he estimated it would take about three months to clean the stairs using brooms, mops, and buckets.”

Swain suggested letting his crew use a KaiVac no-touch cleaning system to blast-clean the stairs. “Starting at the bottom, we worked our way up to the top,” he says. “We were able to clean one landing every 40 minutes, all 57 landings in just over 3 days.”

Swain’s charge for the job was \$3,400. “In other words, we cleaned the stairs 86 days faster and \$4,100 cheaper than the lowest bid the city got,” says Swain. “Productivity and savings like that is what Kaivac is all about.”

For more information about Kaivac and No-Touch Cleaning, visit www.kaivac.com or call 513-887-4600