

29 August 2014

It's been about a year and a half since I purchased my first *HydroFLOW* S38 unit for application to an ice machine at St. Helena Hospital in St. Helena, California. The water at my facility has very high silica content, estimated around 80 ppm, causing several problems related to our ice machines:

- The refrigeration engineer responsible for maintenance of the ice machines was spending up to 180 hours per year cleaning 22 ice machines throughout the facility;
- Many of the parts were replaced frequently due to the difficulty of removal of the silica build-up on the components, costing up to \$1500 per year;
- At many of the ice machine locations, reverse osmosis filtration system were in place, which created bottlenecks in the water supply; the ice machines were not able to keep up with demand from nursing, which resulted in frequent calls to the engineering staff.

I started with purchasing one *HydroFLOW* S38, bypassing the reverse osmosis system at that ice machine and installing it after the filter on the incoming water line. My staff and I were skeptical at first, but after about six months, it started to become apparent that the maintenance required was considerably decreased, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of the *HydroFLOW* product. I ordered two more units at that time, five more a few months later, and an additional one more recently.

With the installation of *HydroFLOW* at the St. Helena Hospital ice machines, I would estimate:

- The labor associated with ice machine maintenance has decreased to 100 hours per year;
- The costs of replacement parts have decreased by \$750 per year;
- Calls to the engineering department due to ice machine inability to meet demand have completely stopped, thus reducing callouts from 6 hours per month to 0 hours per month.

The above hours equates to approximately \$300-\$350 savings per month.

I would recommend *HydroFLOW* for application to others' ice machines to assist with keeping scale from accumulating on the equipment components while reducing the associated maintenance and cost.

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