



Case Study: Camden Yards

ADDRESSING ODOR CHALLENGES IN THE TRASH AREAS AT CAMDEN YARDS

Built in 1992, Camden Yards was one of the first ballparks to go up in a downtown area offering a traditional, fan-friendly approach to hosting Major League Baseball (MLB) games.

During the past 22 years, Camden Yards has been home to many record-setting milestones: Cal Ripken, Jr., played his record-setting 2,131st consecutive game in 1995...Eddie Murray hit his 500th home run in the ballpark in 1996...and the park's 50 millionth fan strolled into the confines in 2008, which made Camden Yards the fastest stadium ever to reach such numbers in nearly 17 seasons.

Providing the best possible experience to Orioles fans is paramount at Camden Yards. As such, the stadium takes great care in devising and executing next-generation facility management tactics, which includes the mitigation of foul odors.

DEALING WITH TRASH ODORS

Trash from – by now – the almost 70,000,000 fans who have walked into the confines certainly has the air about it to accumulate a lingering scent over more than 22 years of operation.

The trash compactor and composting areas are adjacent to the team locker room, and are also next to the loading dock where the players and VIPs enter and exit the stadium. During the summer months, as you can imagine, the heat can cause this area to be steeped in trash odors that bother many, and perhaps especially employees.

THE “GO GREEN” INITIATIVE

To help mitigate the odor issue, Camden Yards sought out eco-friendly solutions that matched its “Go Green” initiative, which includes energy efficiency strategies, composting, recycling, and the use of eco-friendly concession supplies. In terms of cleaning supplies, the stadium also employs only green products throughout the park.

Camden Yard's “Go Green” initiative has also achieved some tremendous outcomes for the ballpark. For example, the stadium recycles more than 600,000 pounds of materials each year. The stadium only uses energy-efficient lighting and plumbing fixtures, while nearly 5,000 gallons of cooking oil from Oriole Park are recycled into biodiesel annually.



The stadium also encourages fans to participate in the “Go Green” program by recycling bottles and cups in the more than 100 recycling containers located throughout the stadium. In addition, they offer a Passbook paperless ticket option, which is available on iPhones, as well as have a parking area to accommodate more than 100 bicycles.

THE GREEN SPORTS ALLIANCE

Camden Yards is also part of the Green Sports Alliance, an organization that helps sports teams and venues enhance their environmental performance, which has enabled them to learn and exchange information and best practices on being eco-conscious.

Since 2010, the Alliance has brought together venue operators, sports team executives, and environmental scientists to exchange information and best practices in developing solutions that are cost-competitive and innovative to environmental challenges. The organization now claims 230 sports team and venue members from 20 different sporting leagues.

In addition, the Alliance has grown in influence over the past four to five years with full support from MLB leadership.



"Baseball is a social institution with many significant social responsibilities to our communities," said Major League Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig, in a recent Green Sports Alliance press release. "As such, we consider it a duty to contribute to the protection of our natural resources for future generations. Our 30 Clubs are fully committed to operating in environmentally conscious ways. With the support of the Green Sports Alliance, Major League Baseball is privileged to do its part to protect the environment and to set a positive example for our fans across the globe."

The Alliances also helps sporting venues develop sound eco-friendly strategies, which include the procurement of green cleaning products, and the implementation of green tactics for remediation and more.

This also includes educating and training staff on green cleaning, as well as the development of programs that include an annual custodial effectiveness assessment and ranking of all products used for cleaning, and tracking items that comply with sustainability requirements such as Green Seal, Environmental Choice, and EPA standards.

The overall strategy of this effort is to counter the eight billion pounds of chemicals that are used each year to clean and maintain commercial and industrial buildings in the United States, according to the EPA.

ECO-FRIENDLY ODOR MANAGEMENT

With this vision in mind, Camden Yards moved forward with its eco-friendly odor management strategy.

However, in early efforts to fight the foul odors from the trash and composting area, the stadium tried a number of homemade remedies and air fresheners, but they did not fully address the issue.

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When they looked at the natural products, which contained no toxins or fragrances, they were fairly certain from the start that they had selected a "winning team" for odor mitigation.

Camden Yards decided on implementing a Fresh Wave IAQ's 130CFM Vapor Phase unit, with its "dry" dispersion system — sending sub-micron sized odor-abating molecules continuously into the air. Rather than masking odors with the distribution of chemical-based additives commonly found in traditional air fresheners, this solution actually eliminates odors on a molecular level.



The M130 Vapor Phase unit disburses sub-micron size Fresh Wave IAQ molecules into the air.

THE RESULTS

Since installing the system at the start of the 2014 season, they immediately experienced a marked reduction in odors associated with the trash and composting areas. To date, they have received zero odor complaints from players, employees, or VIPs.

As a facility with a clear focus on green initiatives, Camden Yards is continually looking for new ways to improve its overall eco-conscious performance, to keep stadium occupants safe and happy, and to reduce its overall imprint on the planet.

Odor management is a challenge for any facility that has dumpster rooms, trash chutes, and loading docks, and especially when those areas are indoors or covered. Fortunately, it is possible to develop green odor-elimination strategies that are both safe and effective.

To find out more about Fresh Wave IAQ products visit FreshWaveIAQ.com or call 800-662-6367.

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