

Goulding's Lodge Cuts Laundry Overhead in Half with New On-premise Facility

By converting an existing garage into an on-premise laundry facility, Goulding's Lodge—a 68-room resort located in Monument Valley, Utah—no longer deals with the expense and hassles associated with its old laundry service. Wayland La Font, the property's operations manager, says Goulding's spent around \$80,000 per year outsourcing its laundry. With the new on-premise laundry operation, he figures he'll cut that expense in half.

"It was costing us a lot of money for the laundry service," says La Font, whose family owns the remote resort. After a busy weekend, Goulding's Lodge sent out more than 1,000 pounds of towels, sheets, tablecloths, chef coats and rags. Its laundry vendor, located 200 miles away, picked up and delivered three times a week. "But, we had problems with the quality," says La Font. "Towels would come back torn and sometimes they would lose our sheets. It was a headache to get stuff back."

With help from his Continental distributor, La Font selected and installed 90- and 55-pound Continental Pro-Series™ soft-mount washer-extractors and two 75-pound drying tumblers. The new laundry is also equipped with a 20-inch Continental Pro-Series Flatwork Ironer for finishing sheets, tablecloths and napkins.

"We were using an existing building and we didn't have to cut the floor out and lay in cement to install the washers," says La Font. Soft-mount washer-extractors are freestanding so they don't require concrete foundations and bolting down, like traditional hard-mount machines. This, he says, saves time and money. "You take them out of the crate, set them on the floor, level, plumb and wire them, and they're ready to go," maintains La Font.

Another benefit of Continental's soft-mount design? Soft-mount washer-extractors can reach extract speeds up to 387 G-force, while traditional hard-mount machines are limited in their per-

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formance due to frame and foundation issues. This means that a soft mount removes more water from a load than a hard mount.

Laundry comes out of the soft-mount washer-extractors nearly dry, according to La Font. "The high extraction of the washers cuts dry time in half," which reduces hotel utility and labor costs. Simultaneously, wear and tear on the new dryers is minimized because they operate less, he maintains.

The entire process—to wash and dry a load of towels—takes La Font's staff less than one hour. "It's a no-brainer for the employees," says La Font. "They just load, push a button and go." The washer-extractors are programmed to automatically inject the right amount of cleaning chemicals at the appropriate cycle, water temperature and level. The auto injection shortens the wash cycle and makes it less hassle for employees because contact with chemicals is eliminated, says La Font.

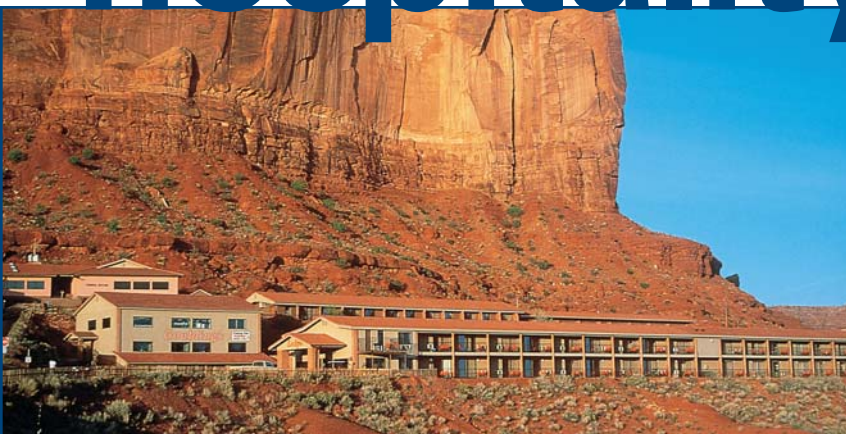
Sheets and tablecloths are fed directly from the washer-extractors into the ironer, where they are finished and folded automatically. This eliminates the need for drying the linens first, La Font says, extending linen life and saving labor and utilities.

"It's pretty amazing how it spits sheets out and gives a good clean finish," says La Font. The ironer features a no-wax cylinder that "should last longer without marking up the linens," he adds.

Goulding's can expect to save around \$40,000 per year with its new on-premise laundry. "It just made good sense," says Continental distributor Bob Ropp, of Sunshine Sales, who expects the hotel to realize a return on its investment within the year.

The new facility also ensures that the hotel's sheets, bath mats, towels and tablecloths are properly cleaned, finished, folded and accounted for. "Now we know where our laundry is," says La Font, "and if we see something that needs to be changed, we have the power to make that change."

hospitality laundry



Wayland La Font, operations manager at Goulding's Lodge and Bob Ropp of Sunshine Sales in Glendale, AZ.



Goulding's Lodge is a 68-room resort located in the midst of the Navajo reservation in Monument Valley. Its new on-premise laundry is expected to save the hotel around \$40,000 per year.

