



● Chef Rahul Bhavale, executive chef, The Westin Mumbai Garden City.

chemicals and hand washing solutions like tissue dispensers, hand washing station, hand dryers. Many hotels also use temperature and time control solutions like probe and Laser thermometers for measuring temperatures at different points, while pest control solutions are utilized for controlling pests. Personnel safety gear solutions, including disposable gloves for handling food are also required.

The market itself has a plethora of options that aid in hygiene of kitchens. GRAFF, for instance, offers a wide selection of kitchen faucets with different designs and functionalities that make them a very useful tool for daily washing operations. Its faucets are equipped with a pull out or side spray and have a revolving spout.

Likewise, even flooring solutions for kitchens need to be well suited for application where a high standard of hygiene is a requirement. "The impervious surface of our flooring collections allow for easy cleaning and not letting the dirt get deep. Due to aesthetic requirements, it has been seen that most end users and designers prefer wood floors with an open grain finish," said Satinder Chawla, MD, Span Floors.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The key factors in maintaining hygiene include product hygiene, kitchen hygiene, store hygiene, food handling hygiene, food handler hygiene, pest control management and waste

management. "A purifying cutting board system is extremely logical device that incorporates a UV lamp, which in 20 minutes can destroy almost all of the germs that may have accumulated on the cutting boards. The right waste management system ensures the four-bin methods in kitchen which helps in proper waste segregation," said Chef Prashant Tikadia, executive chef, Meluha The Fern.

Hygiene solutions needs include cleaning and disinfecting chemicals, equipment, training and periodic performance audits. In the business of food and hospitality, hygiene plays an inevitable role. A kitchen that is lively for an entire day requires extensive cleaning routine.

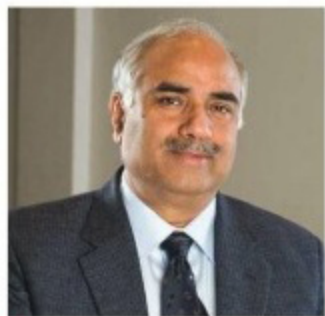
"Overall, it is a process that includes many steps right from receiving, preparation, production, dish-washing, pot washing and garbage areas to maintaining the cleanliness of the floors, wall tiles, exhaust system and hood. Pest control on regular intervals must done in and around



● Food safety and sanitation is an essential part of the food industry.



● Satinder Chawla, MD, Span Floors.



● Binish Matha, director and founder, Incepta Floors.



● Emanuela Izoldini, director of sales, Europe, Graff.



● Raghav Kapur, City Head - Bengaluru, SIA.

to eliminate items as there is barely any scope to compromise on the type of elements and fixtures required. However, having said that, today the number of equipment suppliers in the market is vast and the primary way to save costs is to negotiate amongst vendors to get the best possible deal for the same fixtures.

"Hotels do generally pay great importance to aesthetics and would like to add an element of style to the bathroom but there are ways to meet these demands while curbing costs. What is more important for the guest is easy use of fixtures, good temperature control in faucets, comfort of space in toilets. Hence, changes that can help with aesthetics while keeping costs in check would be using cost-effective lighting techniques in the toilet, such as backlit mirrors or changing the shape of the toilet itself, which can save space and money. An case in point is ibis hotel's curved bathrooms which are compact, but very practical and efficient in utility," averred Kapur.

Value engineering is the key to cost control. Gerard O'Regan, operations manager, modular division at KEF Infra added, "It is essential that architects have in mind elements like natural lighting, building materials, green walls and roofs, electronic water faucets, water recycling, sewer treatments plants, rain water harvesting, solar systems, etc., to keep costs under control. As far as costing is concerned, it is the owner's responsibility and none of the brands actually work on it."

Most hotel brands usually pitch in with material selection along with the interior designer and guide them. For example, if the interior designer proposes a particular wallpaper, the brand might change it to depending on their hotel design standards, or even shift to vinyl, paint or paneling.

NEW VISTAS

Hotels are now seeking materials that are more attractive and elegant like natural elements that have high

performances in terms of resistance and durability. For this reason, GRAFF developed Sleekstone, a patented, composite material that combines dolomitic stone with a resin that creates a solid surface product.

Another trend that is standing out is the use of Corian that has a malleable quality helping it mould in any shape. It can be used as a counter top, basin or cupboard. "We have introduced wood tiles with a special backing for the purpose of wet area usage. Made with teak from sustainable plantation forest, these easy-to-lay and remove tiles can be used in bathrooms, making them more appealing and comfortable. The use of a wood floor in the shower area provides a warm and slip resistant flooring surface that is easy to clean and maintain. The teak tiles can be oiled in various colour shades to go with the specific bathroom décor," said Satinder Chawla, MD, Span Floors.

NOW TRENDING

The use of wood, veneer along with stones for wall claddings, mirror



● Graff Italia

cladded walls, tinted mirrors and etched mirrors defining new form of old materials is of additional interest. Illuminated surfaces like gemstones, acrylics or cutworks in metal acrylics or stones enhance the beauty and add richness to the whole scheme are now trending.

Rajesh Mehra, director and promoter, Jaquar Group said that a huge transformation has been noticed in the areas of bathing spaces in the current time, from just being a merely functional space they have now moved to being more of an experience zone. The trends these days emphasises on personalising the space and adding amenities that are more spa like.

"Extra-large showers offering a stress-busting, rejuvenating downpour while the powerful flow of heavy drops serves to recharge the tired nerves are in. Faucets have also evolved over the years and come in different finishes. Apart from the traditional stainless-steel finish, they come in different color variants like matt black, gold and copper to complement the entire bathroom," Mehra added.

MATERIAL MATTERS

From the guest's perspective, wood brings comfort in terms of relief from coldness while being slip resistant. It is also comparatively a softer surface as compared to a tile or stone and is now being increasingly used. Suchit Beria, principal architect at Atman Architects explained, "Marble and wooden texture dominates the list of the elements in a bathroom. Marble in various forms adds to the classic as well as a contemporary element with the perfect play of light. Guest bathrooms require all the accessories like a towel rack, accessories stand and potpourri to add the ideal essence. Nowadays, the use of glass has seeped through to bring about some transparency between spaces."

Colour shades like grey, nude and neutral colours are on rise as they give a touch of luxury and intimacy in the bathrooms and provide a sense of calmness. "Ergonomic and

minimal designs are chosen more by the users to make a compact bathroom feel larger than it actually is. Soft metal tones like brass, brushed gold and rose gold are also in demand as they add warmth to the bathroom scheme. Many users like a dash of organic elegance in their bathrooms for which many natural materials like stone, wood, etc., are available in the market," opined Gaurav Malhotra, MD, Hansgrohe India.

TECH EDGE

D-foggers that help disperse fog from the glass and mirrors that are created while taking warm water shower or bath and intelligent WCs that come with specialised and integrated features like seat and water temperature control, adjustable spray shape, position, water pres-

sure, pulsate and oscillate functions are in. Towel warmers, motorised height adjustable EC, electronic smart glass that switches between clear glass and frosted glass with just a push of button, shower trays that have long showers with heavy rainfall effect without any waterlogging and chronotherapy or wellness shower experience are new age elements that use technology.

Jaquar has a new self-cleaning shower that solves the problem of unsatisfying water spray and unhealthy germs on the showerhead.

GRAFF's Aqua-sense shower programme offers a wide selection of solutions for every need. The Aqua-sense multifunction system, for example, offers several additional and comfortable functions if compared with a normal showerhead.

"The RGB LED chromotherapy,





● Gaurav Mahotra, HD, Hansgole India.

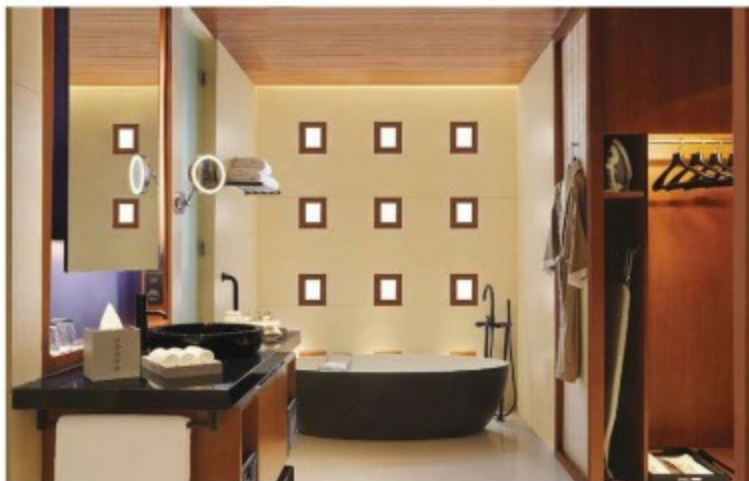


● Kingsley Pereira, executive housekeeper, Four Points by Sheraton, Navi Mumbai.



● Sneha J, housekeeping manager, The InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort.

for example, changes colour to the whole ambient, shaping diffused chromatic lines to produce a soothing effect of the bathroom environment. The system is controlled by a touch-screen with simple and intuitive interface controlling water functions, colour changes, music and videos. The music is easily uploaded by connecting an i-Pod to a wall-mounted USB port, while the speakers are ceiling-installed. The



● InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort, Resort Deluxe.

system is well equipped with hand-shower and adjustable side body-sprays. From watching videos and listening to music to enjoying color therapy, the Aqua-Sense shower system provides a multimedia experience through the use of touchpad technology," explained Emanuela Tavolini, director, sales, Europe, Graff.

VENDOR CONSIDERATIONS

While selecting suppliers, hoteliers seek those who are not just well established but can also constantly supply products or services and are flexible enough to allow changes in orders or product lines. Rajat Bagchi, executive housekeeper, The Pillazio Hotel, Gurgaon said, "We work with suppliers who have a wide range of products that suits not only your present requirement but can support your requirements in the near future. Also, suppliers who follow ethical practices at work and have a good service support system in place and a wide network in your city to reduce lead times of maintenance and availability of spare parts are preferred."

SPACE, TIME SAVERS

To ensure optimum space utilization, it is vital to ensure that the standard spacing between fixtures

and fittings is maintained. Also, the door placement should be right not to hinder the smooth entry or exit or the free movement within.

Likewise, pre-fabricated hotel toilets are expected to catch on, especially due to the influx on investment from funds into the smaller boutique and business hotels space in India, which requires hotels to scale up and open several hotels in different locations in a shorter span on time.

Also, the material used in prefabricated bathrooms is highly durable, easy to maintain and no visible joints, ensuring that they will last longer and be more hygienic than traditional solutions. These are becoming an effective and valuable solution not just for budget properties but also where time overruns cannot be afforded.

As the curtains draw up on 2018, the market is all set to see new finishes and new materials, both for the faucets and the furniture elements inside the bathroom. As Barbara Sallick, co-founder and senior VP of design, Waterworks said, "Today, the bath is decorated with the same care and attention as the rest of the house. You can have music, furniture, textiles, and refrigerators; and if you want to drink champagne in the bath, why not?" ■