

## **HOST Earns an A+ from Gardiner School District**

### **Summer Cleaning Led to Mold**

The usual practice of cleaning carpets in summer wasn't satisfactory for Jon Stonier, Gardiner School District's director of plant operations. With school out and the students gone, summer seemed like an ideal time. But keeping carpets looking their best was difficult, and when signs of mold appeared, Stonier started to seek solutions.

Of the nine facilities in School Administrative District 11 in Gardiner, Maine, six are elementary schools with 200 to 300 students in each. The carpet in those schools, which accounts for about 90 percent of the flooring, takes a beating, according to Stonier. "They take a daily pounding, with a lot of dirt being brought in," said Stonier.

***"It's nice to be able to say the cleaner we're using is not harmful to the environment or the users."***

***- Jon Stonier, director of plant operations***

Like in most schools, the Gardiner schools' carpet was cleaned in summer using a wet extractor machine, but the results were not to Stonier's liking. "When you clean carpets in summer, it takes forever to get rid



*Carpeting covers about 90% of the floors in Laura E. Richards Elementary School and the five other elementary schools in the Gardiner School District.*

of the moisture," he said. "One June we cleaned the carpets, then had two weeks of humid weather in August, and noticed signs of mold."

That prompted Stonier to seek alternatives. While attending a seminar sponsored by a local cleaning products supplier, he was introduced to the HOST® Dry Extraction Carpet Cleaning System. "I was amazed at what it did to the carpet," he said, referring to the system's ability to clean effectively while pile lifting and restoring the carpet's look. He also liked the fact that the machine – in this case a HOST Liberator® – was a pile lifter, vacuum and extractor in one, and that the system was so easy

to use. "It was pretty simple. You basically can't make a mistake."

### **Carpet Better Than New**

Stonier decided to purchase a Liberator and give the HOST System a try. As he put the system to use in a few of the district's buildings, he and his staff began to notice a change. The system successfully removed spots and lifted the carpet pile. "Staff came to me and said the carpet looked better than when it was new," he said.

The more positive feedback he received, the more Stonier incorporated the HOST System into the whole district's cleaning regimen. His staff was pleased with how fast it worked, which

allowed them to clean carpets more quickly and move on to other projects. Teachers even remarked that their allergies had been reduced.

In addition to the carpets, Stonier began using HOST on tile floors. The system is just as effective at cleaning grout as it is at cleaning carpets. "The grout looks brand new," he said.

### Great Savings in Cost & Labor

Not only was the HOST System helping to make the district's buildings cleaner, but it also had a financial benefit. While the up front cost of using the HOST System is comparable to other systems, the total cost of using it is much less.

The most obvious cost saving is in labor. Instead of carpet cleaning being a three-week process that includes moving furniture, setting up drying equipment and replacing furniture, carpets are cleaned quickly,



*Jon Stonier, director of plant operations, likes that he can vacuum, pile lift, and deep clean both carpet and grout with one machine, the HOST Liberator.*



*Gardiner school children can now enjoy the comfort of clean, dry carpet.*

and can be cleaned any time – even during the regular school year.

### HOST Saved Carpet

Stonier also said that using HOST has delayed plans to replace carpet. "Carpets we were going to replace have come back to life," he said. "There is no need to replace them. The machine pays for itself."

The usefulness of the HOST System has allowed Stonier to get more out of their initial investment as well. "When you buy a wet extractor machine, it sits idle for most of the year," he said. "The HOST machines get used year-round."

### Environmental Benefits Too

Finally, Stonier appreciates the fact that the HOST System is environmentally sound. With no water to heat and no need to run blowers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers to dry carpets after cleaning, the HOST System uses only a fraction of the water and energy that wet extractor systems use. And, HOST Dry Carpet Cleaner is an all-natural, biodegradable product that is both Green Seal® and USDA BioPreferred™ certified. Also, because

it removes allergens and prevents the growth of mold and mildew, HOST helps create a better indoor environment for students and staff alike.

"It's nice to be able to say the cleaner we're using is not harmful to the environment or users," he concluded. "And we have nice, fresh smelling, good looking carpet."



**For Clean & Dry  
Carpet That Looks  
Its Best Every Day**

Call 1-800-558-9439 for more information or to request a HOST demonstration, or visit us at [www.hostdry.com](http://www.hostdry.com).