



Housekeeping

by William D. Frye, Ph.D., CHE

New product for tubs and showers makes cleaning easier and safer

*Another great article from The Rooms Chronicle, the #1 journal for hotel rooms management! ***Important notice: This article may not be reproduced without permission of the publisher or the author.*** College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Niagara University, P.O. Box 2036, Niagara University, NY 14109-2036. Phone: 866-Read TRC. E-mail: editor@roomschronicle.com*

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Showers and tubs have frequently been the bane of hoteliers, not just for the risk they pose for slip and fall accidents by both guests and the room attendants who must clean them, but for the inordinate time that is required to maintain them. Typical cleaning procedures may require a housekeeper to spray disinfectant on the walls and tub and to wipe down all surfaces to remove dirt, hair, and soap scum. This cleaning regimen typically requires the room attendant to initially stand in the bathtub to clean the higher surfaces and then to bend, kneel and stretch in order to reach those areas below waist level. All in all, there is a very good possibility that the room attendant may incur an on the job injury, especially a back strain, performing this task several times a day.

Some hotel managers have embraced a new product developed by Ballance Industries to make tub and shower cleaning easier for their housekeeping employees. The *Scrubber 1* incorporates a 32-inch wand with a versatile scrub brush on one end and a ten-foot supply hose on the other that connects directly to a diverter valve. The diverter valve adapts to all standard household showerheads. The 32-inch wand with trigger handle allows the room attendant to stand outside the tub and clean without bending or stretching. A variable pressure water stream can be delivered through the scrub brush and controlled by the attendant by squeezing the trigger handle. The same trigger handle allows the user to squeeze harder forcing an intense jet to spray from the bottom of the brush to aid in cleaning those hard to reach areas as well as stains.

After testing the product, Wayne Fox, general manager of the Holiday Inn in Williamston, NC, liked the concept so much he procured a Scrubber 1 kit for each housekeeping cart. Typically, a hotel will need as many brushes as they have housekeeper carts, but will require a diverter valve for each shower or tub to be cleaned by this system. Kits that come with the wand, hose, spray handle, one diverter valve and multi-use brush are available to hoteliers at \$24.50 each + shipping, brass diverter valves are \$6.50 each. Extra brushes and longer hoses are available also.

For more information or to acquire this new product, please visit the manufacturer's websites at: <http://ballanceindustries.com> and <http://scrubber1.com>. ✧

Pictured below: By using the pictured *Scrubber 1* to clean this bathtub, the housekeeping attendant does not need to bend, kneel or stretch, thus working more efficiently and safely.

