

Facility Spotlight: Macalester College, St Paul, MN

Interview of Mike O' Connor – Chief Engineer – Buildings and Maintenance

Macalester College has been treating a 400,000 gallon competition pool with PoolMoss® Pro since June 2010. They were one of the first commercial facilities to adopt The Moss™ and enjoy the benefits of water treatment, the way nature intended!

Here is what Mike has to say about The Moss™:

What are your general thoughts about The Moss™?

I think The Moss™ is a great product. It not only has benefits in relation to the pool but also the environment.

Why did you start using The Moss™? Did it solve the problem or fill a need?

I did not have a problem or a need. Our pool was new and we were given a chance to be a test site.

Where did solving the problem or filling a need fall on your priority list?

Neither fell into my priority list, I just recognized an opportunity to improve on an already near perfect pool.

What has changed about everyday operations?

Our everyday operations have improved with less maintenance, less time cleaning probes, less back washing filters, adding less chemicals, better water balance.

Did you eliminate any other products since using The Moss™?

We didn't use any chemicals other than chlorine, bicarb and acid. Throughout our time using The Moss™ we are using less bicarb, acid, and chlorine.

How are you measuring success in using The Moss™?

We measure success in three ways. Less chemical usage is cost effective. Less chemical usage is better for the environment. And most important, it is a better experience for our customers.

How are you determining your continuation of using The Moss™?

Cost is always a factor of doing business and although The Moss™ is relatively expensive, the benefits currently outweigh the cost. If things like heat exchanger and air handler life expectancy improves because of The Moss™, the product would fall under the 'no brainer' category!

What do you think about the price point?

The price is a hard sell without data pointing to variable cost savings like air handlers, filters and heat exchanger's. But as I said, customer experience is the most important.

Would you recommend The Moss™ to other facilities?

Yes I would, and I have recommended The Moss™ to other facilities. You can't put a price on a positive bather experience if you want them to continue to use your facility.

ProMoss™ and Rain Water Cistern at RIT

By: Mike Bromley – President of Water Wise, Inc.



Golisano Institute for Sustainability
Rain Collection System with ProMoss™



Rain Water collected from the roof is used as “gray water” for flushing toilets, thus reducing the demand for fresh city water.



Collecting rain water is a time honored method of storing water for later use. The most amazing water collection system I’ve ever seen is at Masada around the Dead Sea in Israel. King Herod built Masada as a fortress retreat on top of a mountain overlooking the Dead Sea. It’s a desert so they receive as little as 0.10 inch of rain a year. He built water collection aqueducts around the mountain that funneled all the water to a cavern carved into the solid rock. This cistern kept the water cool and reduced evaporation.

The same cistern system is used all over the world in homes, businesses, and industry. Keeping the water in the cistern fresh and free from organic contamination buildup has been a chronic problem for centuries as it sits at room temperature for long periods of time.

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY, has a rainwater collection system on the Galisano Institute for Sustainability which was built in 2013. The water was originally treated with high doses of ozone that caused both odor and corrosion issues. The cistern holds approximately 1500 gallons of water that is used to flush toilets. The system became fouled with organic contamination that stained the toilet bowls, fouled pumps, and produced foul smells in the building. Mike Bromley from Water Wise of America, was asked to consult on possible solutions and installed ProMoss™ on the cistern.

They used a CC-140 and a pump to remove water from the cistern, expose it to the ProMoss™ and return the treated water to the cistern.

The cistern water became clear, the foul smell went away, staining of the toilet bowls stopped. They then removed the ProMoss™ for five months to determine if the problems would return. They reordered the ProMoss™ and are starting the system up again.