

Collins Sports & Fitness Center Installs Lockers For A Tough Crowd



The Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center in St. Albans, VT, is owned by the local public high school and was built in the mid 1980s as their primary athletic and physical education facility. It is run as both a school and community facility with more than 25 high school sports teams, 12 daily physical education classes and a semi-pro soccer team. In the past few months, the center has been renovating its locker room and restroom facilities, where the traditional metal was taking some abuse.

Most of the center's public use is fee-based and is critical to the center's financial stability, though keeping costs low is also important to its community image. According to Dave Kimel, facility manager, the center has been slowly renovating a few rooms at a time, as funds have allowed.

"We shopped hard for our locker and restroom products, comparing quality, price and reputation for service and Scranton Products stood out above the rest," said Kimel. "They were the most highly recommended by the best installation company we could find in the state of Vermont."

The center gets about 600,000 user visits to its facility each year, about 400,000 of which are unrelated to school functions. "That's a lot of swinging and banging on toilet stall doors and slamming of locker room doors, said Kimel, "so wear and tear is important." He said most of the old metal lockers still worked but they looked old and got absolutely no respect from the school kids. "We had constant problems with scratching and graffiti," said Kimel. "Since we put new Tufftec® lockers in we haven't had a single incident of damage."



Collins Perley Sports & Fitness
Center Tufftec Hunter Green
Lockers

Considering the traffic Collins Perley endures, the lockers and stalls needed to be high quality and extremely durable. “One of the key reasons for choosing Scranton Products’ shower partition and locker products was the overall value,” said Kimel. “We’re a public high school and money is tight but a good product is not the cheapest, it’s the best value and performance over time,” he said. “The facility amenities also have to look great—the better they look the more memberships we’ll sell and the more our kids will respect and take care of our facility.”

Kimel said another important feature for the locker rooms is sanitation, with one locker having three or four different users per day. “In a public facility there is nothing more important than cleanliness,” he explained. “These HDPE lockers and partitions have no cracks, crevices, or edges to catch cleaning cloths or trap mold, mildew, and other bacteria and they’re easy to clean.” He also finds they pay off from a lifecycle perspective and after three years for some of the shower and locker products, they all look as good as the day they were

installed. “Every hinge, every latch, every hanger works as well today as it did three years ago,” he said, “so we’ll continue to have more installed.” He noted that back in the 80s, gang showers were fine for most high school gym classes.

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But with the multi-use facility, Kimel has seen that change with more demands for privacy. “Scranton Products came up with a simple, clean, great looking, and inexpensive way to convert one side of our gang showers to individual showers at very low cost,” he said. “And my crew finds them very easy to clean.”

Along with serving as the home for numerous sports teams, the center has seen a significant increase in paid memberships over the past three years. “We attribute that in large part to the way our locker rooms now look and feel; they are the customers’ first and last impression of their visits here.” According to Kimel, if you compare a sports and health facility to a house tour, the locker room is as important as a kitchen or bathroom—the two most important rooms when appraising value. “I can get by with an older model treadmill but I better not have rusted lockers,” he said.

