

## Gold and great

By: Nick Wiebe, U.S. Products

Augsburg College was started more than 130 years ago in what is now the heart of Minneapolis, MN. A small school, it is recognized today as a leader in providing its 12,000 students with a solid, well-rounded, liberal arts education.

But because it is such an old school, many of the campus buildings were built decades ago. Due to their age and the chilly, wet climate, the floors in many of the buildings have buckled, which is not uncommon in older buildings. To deal with the uneven floors, the college administrators decided it would be more practical to simply carpet the floors instead of continually repairing the old hardwood surfaces.

"I would say as much as 90 percent of our school is carpeted," says James Oaks, the school's custodial supervisor. "This is a lot more carpet than most schools have, which means we have to spend a lot more time carpet cleaning than many other schools."

Because of this, the type of extractor the school uses is critical. "We need a machine that is dependable, [is] efficient, performs well, and is easy to move around," Oaks says. "Our present equipment was just not making the grade."



### Message boards help

Looking for a new machine, Oaks turned to online message boards that cater to carpet cleaners around the world. He started reading what others had to say about various extractors and found that four different machines were praised over and over again — but one seemed to have more fans than the others: The new Solus® portable carpet extractors from U.S. Products with the Evolution carpet wand.

The Solus 500, with adjustable 500 psi, is light with an upright design and large rear wheels that make it perfect for one-person operation. "This makes it easy for just one person to maneuver up and down stairs and in and out of work vans," Oaks says. "That's just what we needed."

But what really impressed him was the performance. "This machine has instant heat as soon as you turn it on," he says. "And the heat makes a real difference. Spots are quickly removed, and we don't have to make as many passes to get the carpets clean."

U.S. Products is famous for heated portable extractors, but the Solus has taken this a step further with its optional pre-heat system. This system preheats the water to 125 degrees Fahrenheit, assuring not only instant but constant heat, which helps improve cleaning power.

"And the Evolution wand is the icing on the cake," adds Oaks. "This is the lightest wand I have ever used; it glides over the carpet, eliminating a lot of the stress in carpet



cleaning, and the performance is fantastic."

That's because the Evolution wand was engineered to utilize the benefits of laminar airflow. The airflow through the wand is smooth — not turbulent, as in conventional wands — boosting machine vacuum performance and water recovery.

"In fact, they say the wand is one reason the Solus earned the Carpet and Rug Institute's top Gold Seal of Approval certification," adds Oaks. "We've had the Solus for two months now, and all I can do is thank my buddies on the message board for suggesting it. The Solus is not only Gold — it's great."

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