



**RENTAL  
LAUNDRY  
PLANNING FILE**





**LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP:** The Schmid-Suhr laundry in Switzerland's north Alps has had a long relationship with Pellerin Milnor

# A successful partnership proves its value

When the Schmid-Suhr laundry was destroyed in a fire in 2010, the company knew it could rely on its long-term equipment partner Pellerin Milnor. The rebuild provided an opportunity to expand and PulseFlow CBW tunnels have allowed Schmid to do so while achieving significant water savings

**S**ituated in the affluent town of Suhr, in Switzerland's northern Alps, Textilerewashing Schmid is a family-owned business that started as a wiper washing plant in 1884 but now services workwear, hotel and restaurant linen and wiper goods for an area that extends over a radius of 800km.

CEO Christoph Streuli-Schmid CEO has had a longstanding relationship with Pellerin Milnor Corporation that started with washer-extractor installations and that has spanned all of the generations of CBW tunnels. From 1987, Schmid-Suhr has relied on Milnor's tunnel washing technology to process its customers' goods. These include wipers (highly combustible rags for the printing industry) which are processed in a separate laundry on the site.

The value of that relationship was proved in November 2010, after a fire broke out late at night and burned the flat linen and workwear laundry to the ground. The next day Streuli-Schmid contacted Karl Schubert at Milnor International in Belgium and

**MORE WORK WITH LESS WATER:** Two PulseFlow tunnels have increased Schmid-Suhr's capacity to 2,000kg/hour (4,400 lb/hour) while achieving a fresh water consumption of only 3.5litre/kg (0.42gal/lb) on flatwork and 5litre/kg (0.6 gal/lb) on workwear, previously the average was 7 – 8litre/kg – (0.8 0.96gal/lb)

began to plan the laundry's rebuild.

Before the fire, Textilerewashing Schmid was running three Milnor CBW's (circa 1987, 1989, 1995 respectively). These machines were served by a pair of two-stage presses, a centrifugal extractor and five, 50040 single-batch, steam-heated, pass-through dryers. The laundry ran two shifts daily and the CBWs had an average fresh water consumption of 7 – 8litre/kg (0.8 – 0.96gal/lb).

During 2010/2011 Milnor's revolutionary, new PulseFlow Technology CBW tunnel had been gaining a strong following and praise throughout the world. After careful testing and verification, the Hohenstein Institute awarded Pellerin Milnor





**OPENING CEREMONY:** CEO Christoph Streuli-Schmid speaking at the opening of the refurbished laundry. His wife is seen fifth from right and the founder and his wife are on the far right

Corporation its prestigious "Certificate of Innovation" for achieving as little as 2.5litre/kg (0.3gal/lb) fresh water consumption for light to medium soil in CBW tunnels using PulseFlow Technology.

This technology was not only proved to save an unprecedented amount of fresh water but has also been successfully implemented in every type of commercial laundry (from prison to healthcare, from dust control to industrial workwear).

### Rebuild, expand, upgrade

Streuli-Schmid knew that he had an opportunity to expand his operation while rebuilding his laundry. He decided that upgrading to PulseFlow Technology would be the way forward and so he asked Milnor International to present a solution for the new laundry's washroom. He specified that the installation should increase production but that this had to be achieved within the footprint occupied by the previous laundry, due to foundation constraints.

The architects, Schmid, and Milnor worked together and found a solution. This allowed the plant to operate on three different levels using a rail system on the soiled side and an automated linen elevator to feed the dryers. On the clean side a sophisticated rail system distributes the dried/conditioned linen to the various finishing stations.

Milnor was able to accomplish this by customising two PulseFlow CBW tunnels so that one would handle workwear and the other flatwork. The Milnor tunnel systems were successfully integrated with the three-level layout and sophisticated rail plan described.

Textilerewashing Schmid now has the capacity to process 2,000kg/hour (4,400 lb/hour) with two, 50kg (110 lb) eight-module 76028 PulseFlow CBW tunnels.

The flatwork CBW produces 1,300kg/hour (2,860 lb/hour) with a fresh water consumption of 3.5litre/kg (0.42gal/lb) and using an MP1540 40bar single-stage press. The workwear tunnel produces 700kg/hour (1,540 lb/hr) with a fresh water consumption of 5litre/kg (0.6gal/lb) using a MXV42032 centrifugal extractor. Both systems feed into a single bank of six 50040TS single-batch steam-heated dryers.

This increase in production has allowed Schmid to move from two shifts to one while increasing production over the previous design. The company can now serve over 600 customers.

After seeing the workwear and flatwork laundry's successful start-up and continued efficiency, Schmid-Suhr decided to upgrade the print rag tunnel, which was located in a nearby



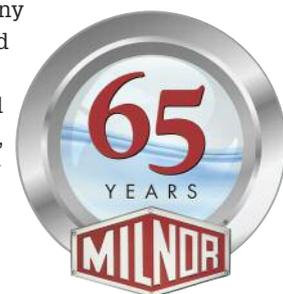
**THREE-TIER SOLUTION:** To increase production within the original space, Milnor helped to devise a three-tier layout. The dryers are fed by an automated linen elevator and a rail system delivers linen from the dryers to the finishing stations

building. This installation posed a fresh set of challenges, including the need to enclose the tunnel in an explosion-proof container. Milnor's 12-module 76039 PulseFlow CBW tunnel will replace its 50kg (110 lb) G1 tunnel, which had been in operation since 1987. This PulseFlow tunnel will double the capacity but use only 60% of the quantity of fresh water that the vintage tunnel washer needed.

Christoph Streuli-Schmid says: "The night when our plant burned down was a traumatic and sad experience. However, it gave us the opportunity to start from scratch and build a new, highly automated plant using the latest technology for sustainable growth on a sound ecological basis."

Pellerin Milnor Corporation is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year and the company soon expects to celebrate having sold 100 PulseFlow CBW tunnels throughout the world. With loyal and satisfied customers like Schmid-Suhr, that celebration could take place any day now. ■

*PulseFlow and CBW are Pellerin Milnor's registered trademarks*



# American LAUNDRY NEWS

APRIL 2011

crain

## Linen supply co. makes 'green' investment



The tunnel washer produces 3,100 pounds of mixed goods (bar mops, aprons, colored table linen, etc.) an hour, averaging 155 pounds per transfer.

ADAMS, Mass. — ALADCO Linen Services is committed to making itself a leader in the “green” movement in linen rental, says company President David Desmarais, and recently invested in a new PulseFlow® continuous batch-washing system from Pellerin Milnor Corp. to replace multiple washer-extractors.

Cutting the heart of the business and retrofitting a circa 1888 building was no easy feat. Creating a new laundry operation took much of November and December to implement and work out the kinks. At a cost of \$700,000, Desmarais sees it as a “great investment in the business and the community.”

### Water Usage: 0.4 Gal/Lb

ALADCO processes 600,000 pounds of hospitality linen per month, with a 50/50 mix of restaurant/hospitality and bed linen.

The former wash process used about 2.5 gallons of water per pound, or 1.5 million gallons per month, ALADCO says. Today, as measured by an independent water meter installed for the CBW®, water use is 0.4 gallons per pound, a savings of 1.25 million gallons monthly. Additionally, the need to heat 84% less water than with the old system conserves natural gas and electricity, ALADCO says.

### Energy-Saving Incentives

ALADCO worked with Berkshire Gas' Energy Efficient Department and participated in its Commercial & Industrial Energy Audit Program to develop a long-term plan for increasing energy efficiency. Berkshire Gas committed \$50,000 in energy-saving incentives to the project.

“This is the type of energy-efficiency project we are excited to be part of,” says Michael Sommer, manager of Energy Services at Berkshire. “The projected savings for this project of over 67,000 therms (annually), and nearly 1.7 million therms over the life of the equipment, are impressive, to say the least.

“To put this into perspective, the annual savings from this one project equates to the amount of natural gas needed to heat approximately 70 homes per year.”

*“I knew we could get the sheets clean, but the aprons are coming out whiter than they've ever been.” – David Desmarais, President, ALADCO*

### Culture Change

Trucks deliver soiled linen in laundry carts, which are wheeled to a service elevator and taken up to the second floor. Goods are sorted on a platform into slings, which are then routed to a conveyor for loading.

The ALADCO staff, which includes 68 employees (15 on the delivery staff), had to be educated about tunnel washing. Previously, they had only washed in single-pocket washer-extractors where it didn't matter that white sheets were washed after red napkins.

“(They had to) understand a new culture of 150-pound pockets (that) must be compatible with neighboring loads,” says Desmarais.

He admits having to make some adjustments of his own to best utilize ALADCO's new equipment. “I need to have a better plan of attack to keep the ironers busy and different goods types through the PulseFlow tunnel at (the) same time.”

The PulseFlow's arrival has enabled ALADCO to reduce its hours of operation. In addition to the energy and time savings the tunnel creates, Desmarais is pleased with the quality of the processed goods.

“I can't expect any more than what we're getting now,” he says. “I knew we could get the sheets clean, but the aprons are coming out whiter than they've ever been.”

Not satisfied that its “green” equipment investment is enough, ALADCO recently introduced three new product options: a lint-free microfiber wiping towel, a micro-fiber mop

system, and the Enviro-nap, an environmentally friendly, smaller napkin designed to be a cost-effective alternative to paper napkins. **ALN**



An ALADCO Linen Services worker prepares to open a sling and unload soiled goods onto the conveyor that feeds the company's new PulseFlow® continuous batch-washing system.



# RENTAL WASHER-EXTRACTOR CAPACITIES

	Weight In Lbs.	MILNOR 25 lb. models	MILNOR 35 lb. models	MILNOR 40 lb. models	MILNOR 45 lb. models	MILNOR 60 lb. models	MILNOR 80 lb. models	MILNOR 100 lb. models	MILNOR 140 lb. models	MILNOR 160 lb. models	MILNOR 275 lb. models
Table cloths (54x54)	0.7	34	48	55	62	82	110	137	192	219	377
Table cloths (72X 72)	1.2	22	30	35	39	52	70	87	122	139	239
Napkins (20x20)	0.12	208	292	333	375	500	667	833	1167	1333	2292
Dress (Uniforms)	0.7	36	50	57	64	86	114	143	200	229	393
Jackets (attendants)	0.75	33	47	53	60	80	107	133	187	213	367
Aprons (bib)	0.4	63	88	100	113	150	200	250	350	400	688
Aprons (tea)	0.2	125	175	200	225	300	400	500	700	800	1375
Pants	1.15	22	30	35	39	52	70	87	122	139	239
Shirts	0.5	50	70	80	90	120	160	200	280	320	550
Draperies (84x96)	5.91	4	6	7	8	10	14	17	24	27	47
Entry mats (36x60)	7.99	3	4	5	6	8	10	13	18	20	34
Furniture covers	2.08	12	17	19	22	29	38	48	67	77	132
Cleaning rags	0.11	227	318	364	409	545	727	909	1273	1455	2500
Mop heads 12"	0.5	50	70	80	90	120	160	200	280	320	550
Mop heads 24"	1.1	23	32	36	41	55	73	91	127	145	250
Continuous towels 40-50 yd (100% cotton)	4.4	6	8	9	10	14	18	23	32	36	63
Continuous towels 40-50 yd (50% poly)	3.75	7	9	11	12	16	21	27	37	43	73

*These figures are based on sample items. Weights and sizes of some brands differ, and therefore the figures should be used only as guidelines*

**PELLERIN MILNOR CORPORATION, P.O. Box 400, Kenner, LA 70063-0400**

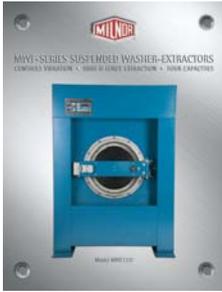
**Phone: 504-712-7656 Fax: 504-468-3094**

**<http://www.milnor.com>**

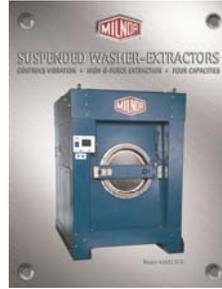
**E-mail: [milnorinfo@milnor.com](mailto:milnorinfo@milnor.com)**

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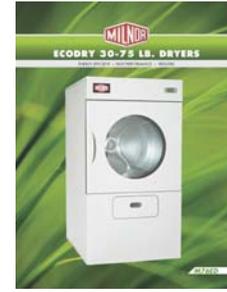
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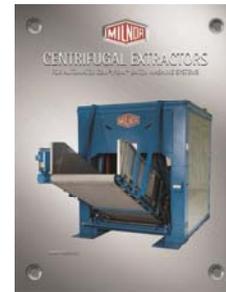
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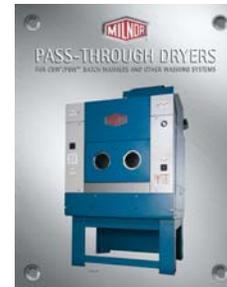
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