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Nursing homes fighting bad smells

The nursing homes in the Municipality of Kolding, Denmark, are pestered with bad odour. Therefore some of them have invested in machinery that sterilizes air.

Although spending much time with the individual tenants, it is no easy task for the staffs of Danish nursing homes to maintain a neutral smell in all residences. Therefore, a number of such institutions in the Municipality of Kolding have invested in Jimco MAC 500 air cleaners which sterilize indoor air, thereby also minimizing bad smell.

The Vesterled Nursing Home chose to purchase the product after becoming aware how it was successfully used in similar institutions. – *In another nursing home, I experienced how the air cleaner eliminated the bad smell in a room with excessive smoking. Therefore, I was in no doubt that the product was also relevant to us, especially as we constantly encounter urine and smoking smells*, says Hanne Schultz who is responsible for the nursing home's working environment. She explains that although cleaning is done in accordance with current regulations, it has – so far – not been an easy task to ensure constantly fresh air and smells.

– *Of course, we respect a closed door. Therefore, it does not always instantly come to our attention if a tenant has urinated in bed or on the floor of his apartment. In this context it is essential to alleviate bad odour. That also applies to the rooms of heavy smokers, where the sterilization of air is essential to ensure better indoor air quality and a bearable smell, both in the flats and in the corridors. Thus we make life more enjoyable for the residents themselves, their visitors and our staff.*

Clean air by using UV light

The air sterilizer which has become popular with the Kolding Area nursing homes has the size of a shoebox and costs app. € 500. Using ultraviolet rays it can, for instance, burn viruses, bacteria and fungi in the air. The product is sold worldwide and manufactured by Jimco A/S of Denmark, which develops and produces air and water treatment systems. The technology has received numerous awards, including the EU Environmental Award.

According to Jimco's CEO, Jimmy Larsen, the product has numerous applications and is used both in private households, institutions and companies. – *MAC 500 contributes to a better indoor environment and counteracts bad smells. Therefore, it is used in a variety of environments, including smoking rooms, food and linen storage rooms, hospitals and nursing homes. The product is also used in private households, mostly by people suffering from asthma and allergy, where it e.g. eliminates mould and pollen. Moreover, air cleaners are applied by supermarkets and greengrocers to reduce bacterial levels and improve the preservation of organic food.*

Laboratory tests have also demonstrated that Jimco air cleaners can prevent infection and eliminate contaminating viruses, including the so-called corona virus that transmits influenza A, by killing all the bacteria that pass through the machine. Obviously, this capability is particularly relevant in the healthcare sector, where many people are to share the air and where the user groups are particularly vulnerable. At nursing homes, the tenants typically have a reduced immune defence, and in hospitals the risk of infection is increased by e.g. open wounds.

So far, the nursing homes have had positive results with the product. The Birkebo Nursing Home has experienced an improved indoor climate and significantly reduced odours; and at the Vesterled institution, the positive expectations of Hanne Schultz have been fulfilled. – *Jimco MAC 500 has met our expectations. The indoor climate with smoking tenants has become so much better that it now entails minimal discomfort for our staff to stay in smoking rooms. Acquiring Jimco's product has thus been a sound investment in improving air quality and working environment. The alternative would have been fitting extractors – a cumbersome, immobile and far more expensive solution*, she concludes.