

Picture: Wall Camera Probe shows hidden mold



“If Walls Could Talk”

A decade ago, when the threat of hidden mold growth inside walls was at its peak as a public health concern, I gave a presentation in Anaheim, CA where I jokingly made reference to a hit television show called *If Walls Could Talk* on HGTV. I suggest the walls would simply say “leave me alone”. My point then was that boring holes inside walls to find hidden mold was not a good method for assessing occupant exposure. After all, who breaths air from inside a wall cavity. Right? Fast forward 10 years and as it turns out, I have come to realize that the movement of air through the interstitial wall cavity is more important than I thought. The simple fact is “where you have air leaks, you have moisture concerns”. The impacts have included heating and cooling costs, premature building material failure, and yes some diminished indoor air quality. Just goes to show that if you really study something long enough, you can unlearn it. For subtle condensate formation and energy loss problems, always check the wall assembly performance. A simple wall camera probe like shown above can be purchased at Lowes and reveals a lot inside tight spaces non-destructively.

Calendar of Events

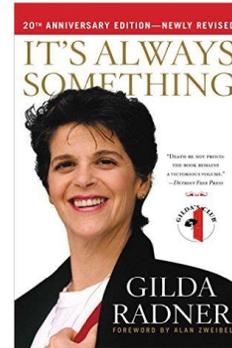
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| January 9, 2016 | TriState Society of Healthcare Engineers
Cincinnati, Ohio
“Hospital Wastewater Discharge Permits” |
| February 11, 2016 | Allied Construction Industries
Cincinnati, Ohio
“Construction Infection Control in Hospitals” |

411 Terrace Place, Suite #5
PO Box 94
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174-0094
www.ecostratum.com



E: srucker@ecostratum.com
P: 513-248-0081
M: 513-526-7391
F: 513-965-0071

“It’s Always Something”



Autobiography
published by
Simon & Schuster
in May 2009.

Her Husband ,
Gene Wilder,
posthumously
established the
*Gilda Radner
Hereditary Cancer
Program at
Cedars-Sinai*

Gilda Radner (aka Roseannadanna) on the television show Saturday Night Live, for those of you old enough to remember, was famous for saying “It’s always something” to punctuate the end of a skit in which a myriad of confusing problems had been developed. And so it is with infection control in healthcare. Eighteen months ago, the Ebola scare and subsequent, albeit appropriate, CDC response taxed resources. Now, it is a resurgence of Legionella bacteria discharged from cooling towers and being traced to public infectious disease outbreaks almost one mile away. Ecostratum understands the evolving landscape of airborne microscopic infectious agents and uses clear methods to evaluate them. This helps you put resources to work efficiently.

Healthcare Engineering

Managing your water is smart business. Why? Because it is an easy facility performance metric to track. Water bills are the accounting mechanism for tracking, but HCAHPS and HAIs are the quality measure. Understand your facility’s potable and wastewater characteristics in context of the recent developments cited below and have programs in place.

As of now, the ASHRAE 188 Standard for Legionellosis Risk Management is voluntary. However, this standard is written in such a way as to be easily adapted to code. New York City is the first mover spurred into action by more than 100 Legionnaires cases reported in the August 6, 2015 edition of the New York Times. Now In NYC, cooling towers must be registered with the Department of Health and tested. But, since chemically treated cooling towers are only the start, keep a vigilant eye on potable water systems, including ice machines, and avoid biofilm accumulation, particularly at the tap

For wastewater discharge, a good rule of thumb is to expect 350 gallons of wastewater generated per hospital bed per day. Cincinnati MSD pretreatment permit requirements kick in at a total discharge volume of 25,000 gallon per day (gpd). New building permits and leased space are subject to this rule. So, if you have added 70 bed capacity at any of your locations, then wastewater discharge characterization and permits are required.

“A Higher Level of Thinking”. Technical developments are presented with a business case underpinning. Contact Steve Rucker at srucker@ecostratum.com