

Clean-up x 3 = time-labor savings bonanza

By TERRY BUCHEN

A major obstacle at maintenance complexes is efficiently cleaning equipment at the end of the day when the entire crew returns at once. The old scene of one person cleaning their equipment and the rest of the crew watching is outdated and unnecessary — a time/motion study at its worst.

An answer: the wash/cleaning rack. This rack has three hoses coming off the irrigation



system at 125 pounds per square inch, each with a plastic fireman's adjustable nozzle. A fourth hose faucet — which comes off the

maintenance building's domestic water system — supplies the pressure water/steam cleaner that is used for cleaning freshly lapped reels and for any other in-depth equipment cleaning.

A fifth hose faucet is available during the winter months, when the irrigation system is drained and the domestic water line is also winterized. This faucet is made of a farm-type frost-free hydrant.

Since cleaning with air instead of water is becoming more popular, air lines, coming off the air compressor in the maintenance building, could also be added next to each of the three hoses. The drainage grate is 12 inches wide and 40 feet long and has a quarter-inch mesh screen zip-stripped to the grate to keep grass clippings from clogging up the six-inch drain pipe. The pipe is drained back into the irrigation lake for recycling.

State laws will change in future years. With that in mind, this wash rack was designed to accommodate a rinse-aid type cleaning system, with electricity and piping installed during initial construction.

An isolation valve is located adjacent to the wash rack to shut off the three hoses from the irrigation system for repairs. One also should be incorporated for the air lines.

The concrete apron is six inches thick with reinforcing rods and is pitched at about a 2-percent slope toward the grate on all four sides. The hose holders are old automobile wheel rims and are bolted to a 4-by-4-inch post, as is the 1-inch PVC irrigation and air piping. Another option is a cleaning nozzle wand, with a hook-up for both air and water. This does a great job cleaning — almost as good as a pressure washer.

Most modern pressure washers/steam cleaners that are a combination unit operate on 115-volt household current. But many turf managers are buying units with 230/208 single phase, which has a slightly larger up-front cost but is much cheaper to operate in the long run. Some superintendents even have a special electrical outlet male and female waterproof connection for obvious reasons. It doubles as an employee fool-proof connection so that it is not inadvertently plugged into a 115-volt regular electric outlet.

Three to five employees cleaning their equipment at one time? It is truly a win-win situation.

HOLTZ OPENING GCSAA CONFERENCE

ORLANDO, Fla. — University of Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz will keynote the opening session, Feb. 7, of the 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show here.

Holtz will speak at 5:30 p.m. at the Orange County Convention Center.



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