



Covenant Health Systems, Lubbock, TX

nora[®] Floor Coverings Promote Health and Well-Being

Covenant Health System's Lakeside Campus in Lubbock, Texas, has undergone extensive renovation in recent years. Redesigned for consolidation of the system's women and children's services, the seven-story, 457,000-square-foot Lakeside Campus serves as the region's only licensed children's hospital.

The installation of nora[®] floor coverings from nora systems, Inc. figured prominently in the renovation project. Interior designer John DuBard, IIDA, with Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., first worked with the product in 2002 when a physician moving to the hospital requested nora floor covering for the operating room in which he would be working. "He was coming here from another facility that used nora products, and he was quite a fan," explained DuBard. "He particularly liked the comfort underfoot and slip resistance as well as the fact that you don't have to move heavy equipment in and out of the operating room every month so that wax can be applied."

As a result, nora products were installed in one operating room, and the floor covering soon met with positive reviews. According to DuBard, the floor's performance made it the floor covering of choice for the renovated surgical suite at the Lakeside Campus, where the facility's 10 operating rooms and post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) feature three millimeter noraplan[®] mega. "Our surgical staff loves the floor," said Bobby Hitt, plant operations manager at the Lakeside Campus. "They like to walk on it and appreciate its durability in an area where large, heavy equipment can damage floors."

"The extra thickness of the three millimeter product really gives you peace of mind," DuBard noted. "As Bobby says, it definitely holds up better to the abuse of all the heavy equipment that rolls across the floor in procedural areas like operating rooms. It also stands up to betadine, and is much easier to maintain than resilient floor coverings that require waxing, stripping and sealing." For similar reasons, the same floor covering was installed in the surgery north expansion and surgical decontamination suite as well as the pediatric emergency trauma center.



The mega product also comes in an acoustic offering that perfectly met demands for quiet and comfort in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU). "They considered comfort and stain resistance, but the noise level was everybody's main concern as plans for the NICU were developed," recalled Hitt. With a high footfall sound absorption of 20 decibels, noraplan mega acoustic contributes to the quiet environment so important to babies' sensitive ears. "And, as mentioned with respect to the surgical suite and other areas, the floor covering is easy to clean," said DuBard. "Because the no wax nora product does not require monthly waxing, stripping and sealing, it eliminates the harsh chemicals associated with those procedures for improved indoor air quality and limits the movement of patients and equipment to accommodate maintenance requirements."

"Our surgical staff loves the floor."

Bobby Hitt
Plant Operations Manager
Lakeside Campus

As an interior designer, DuBard also appreciated the opportunities for good design that the mega product provided. He selected a palette of seven colors to create geometric patterns that tie together procedural areas and patient units located on different floors of the hospital. "We wanted to unify these areas as part of a whole, and the floor covering helped us accomplish this goal."

Even in the emergency center, where the geometric design gives way to a kite theme, the colors of the floor continue to tie this area of the hospital to the rest of the facility. "The emergency room has its own design," DuBard explained. "It's strictly a children's emergency department, so we tried to make the design something that children would be interested in." The resulting kite theme is reflected in the floors, where colorful kite inlays add a whimsical touch for children to enjoy.

"Meanwhile, the floor continues to meet the performance challenges of the emergency room setting, just as it does in other areas of the hospital," noted DuBard. Reflecting on the nora product, DuBard added, "Throughout the hospital, the floor really tells a story about the care the hospital is going to give its patients; it is a high-tech, high-quality floor covering that perfectly reflects the high-tech, high-quality care patients receive."



nora systems, Inc.

94 Glenn Street
Lawrence, MA 01843
Toll free: 800-332-NORA
Phone: 978-689-0530
Fax: 978-975-0110
E-mail: info-us@nora.com
Internet: www.nora.com/us

