

## Washington Soldiers Home

*Soldier's Home Goes Green with Amano Pioneer Eclipse (By Betsey McRae for Amano Pioneer Eclipse)*

Washington Soldiers Home and Colony, located on 181 acres in the beautiful Puyallup Valley near Orting, serves up to 183 residents needing both skilled-nursing and assisted-living care. Established in 1891, this was the first of three homes built for Washington state veterans.



When Washington Governor Gary Locke mandated that all state agencies "Go Green", the Washington Soldiers Home—a long-term care facility for veterans, Orting, WA—enthusiastically took on the new initiative.

### The Challenges

The main concern for adopting a green initiative was to eliminate as many hazardous products as possible.



Other key criteria for selecting the right solutions were performance based on cleaning effectiveness as well as appearance. Cross contamination was also of primary concern although research for the Centers for Disease Control indicated that the floors did not require disinfection on a regular basis.

The first step was a comprehensive review of all chemical cleaning products. To help the Soldiers' Home meet its new green goals, R&D Supply, Inc.; an Amano Pioneer Eclipse authorized distributor and leading provider of environmentally friendly building and industrial maintenance products, worked closely with the home to identify the solution that would best meet their need.

Paul Barabe, from R&D Supply, Inc. recommended the EnviroStar Green Floor Care System from Amano Pioneer Eclipse.

## The Solution

The first trial of the EnviroStar Green Floor Care System took place on the Nursing Care Facility (NCF). For daily floor cleaning, custodians in the test wing replaced Pioneer Eclipse Aurora HB, an EPA-registered disinfectant and deodorizer, with Pioneer Eclipse EnviroStar Green Floor Maintainer. They limited disinfectant use to spot cleaning and for surface where regular disinfection is required.

"We noticed right away that the shine with just the maintainer was holding twice as long, or even longer that with our previous program," said Donn Lewis, Plant Manager.



After the first successful test, the Soldiers Home transitioned other areas of the NCF to EnviroStar Green. Use of the new green product eventually expanded to the entire facility.

According to Dorothy Porter, infection Control Practitioner, "The new green cleaning products and custodial practices are working very effectively and caused no infectious control problems.

## The Result

With a switch to the EnviroStar Green Floor Care System from Amano Pioneer Eclipse and using new cleaning procedures, the Soldiers' Home successfully met its Green goals and has been recognized state-wide for its significant accomplishment. By reducing the overall number of chemical products and using green products wherever possible, "we recued the product usage by about 30 percent", Barabe said.

As the program continued to expand to the rest of the facility, additional benefits started to emerge. "We had washing machines going 16 hours a day, washing mops and other cleaning supplies," said Lewis. Using Pioneer Eclipse EnviroStar Green products, they have been able to eliminate bleach and reduce the amount of detergent used for laundering mops and cleaning supplies. "The products are also going farther, with no waste," Lewis said, "and it's all green."

According to Lewis, a major key to their successful transition has been the exceptional service and follow-up by R&D Supply. "The distributor sales rep was absolutely instrumental in making the new floor care program work for us. We were convinced by successful results through demonstrations and numerous follow-up training sessions on how to best use the various Amano Pioneer Eclipse chemical products."