

**PROJECT DETAILS**

**Location:**

Pipitone Group,  
Commercial Office  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Products:**

PureDri Sanitizing  
Hand Dryer  
PureSphere Air Sanitizer



**PureDri**  
Sanitizing Hand Dryer



**PureSphere**  
Air Sanitizer

## The Great Return: Helping Employees Feel Comfortable Returning to the Office

*Detailed test results from BobrickPure Hygiene Solutions early adopters*

After two years of remote work, companies are eager to bring employees back to the office safely.

Among employees, a heightened concern for germs created apprehension around congregating with co-workers. Even with more cleaning protocols in place for high-touch areas such as restrooms, kitchens, break areas and meeting spaces, employees are still leery of the cleanliness of these shared spaces, making them hesitant to return to the office.

Thoughtful business owners know that a healthy staff and maximum productivity begin with the safest workplace possible. Over the past two years, innovative products have been released to help stop the spread of germs, giving employers plenty of ways to show their commitment to new office standards.

This case study shares test results from BobrickPure Hygiene Solutions, which were installed in an office with about 50 employees.

## A Breakthrough Combination of Pathogen-Destroying Technologies

Bobrick developed two new products to help minimize the spread of infection – PureDri Sanitizing Hand Dryer and PureSphere Air Sanitizer – which eliminate 99% of bacteria, viruses, mold and fungi in fewer than 10 minutes, as proven in a Leeds University research study.

PureDri and PureSphere technology works by destroying existing microorganisms from bacteria and viruses in the air and on surfaces through continuous sanitization.

The PureDri Sanitizing Hand Dryer is a restroom device that protects hands with a blast of super-concentrated ionized air following the drying cycle, while providing continuous sanitization in rooms up to 215 square feet.

Designed for high-traffic restrooms, lounges and workspaces up to 323 square feet, the PureSphere Air Sanitizer purifies the air continuously using an internal UV lamp and ionic processes. In addition, the unit provides odor control so rooms feel fresh and smell clean.

### PureDri and PureSphere employ three distinct scientific processes working together:

1. Eliminates viruses and bacteria via a germicidal UV lamp that inactivates all microorganisms
2. Neutralizes viral particles through strong oxidizing agents as air passes through the chamber
3. Neutralizes airborne particles with superoxide ions, causing the particles to drop to surfaces below



## Creative Collaboration Paused

Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Pipitone Group is an integrated marketing agency that thrives on creative collaboration between its employees. Like many other businesses, Pipitone Group was forced to shift to remote work for nearly 16 months during the pandemic. Eager to bring employees back to the office, the president and CEO agreed to work with Bobrick to install the PureDri Sanitizing Hand Dryer and PureSphere Air Sanitizer in the main restrooms, kitchen and primary conference room.

### Employee “Temperature Check”

Before installation, Pipitone collected anonymous feedback from employees on office cleanliness and how COVID-19 changed their perspectives about working in the office.

A wide range of sentiments about working in an office during the pandemic showed some employees feeling completely comfortable being there every day and some preferring to work remotely full-time. Those who were taking more precautions reported having more peace of mind about being in the office, especially when interacting with others in the areas where BobrickPure units are installed. Those who were already satisfied with the company’s cleaning protocols were glad to know the company is taking an initiative to enhance employee safety.

### Methodology

To ensure proper testing protocols, Bobrick’s Hygiene, Health & Wellness Advisory Board, which includes experts in infection prevention, facility management, healthy design and manufacturing, worked with Allynt Solutions, a facility safety and infection prevention consulting firm in Greater Philadelphia.

Testing was conducted before and after installation and focused on measuring air quality and the soil loads on surfaces and hands. Soil load measurements indicate how well a surface supports the growth of bacteria.

### The Findings: Air Quality Test



Before and after installation, Bobrick measured the cleanliness of the air in every room containing PureDri and PureSphere units with an air quality meter. At Pipitone, this included the two restrooms (200 square feet each), the kitchen (400 square feet) and a conference room (350 square feet).

This meter recorded the presence of airborne particles at or below 2.5 microns before Bobrick's continuous air purification products were installed. After installation, the same measurement was recorded multiple times every day for 30 days. All data points were recorded and compared.

Air quality is considered fresh if the particulate matter greater than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) counts are less than 35. If PM2.5 is between 35 and 150, the air quality is considered unqualified, meaning air is not fresh, but not considered hazardous pollution. When PM2.5 is greater than 150, the air quality is considered very unhealthy and not safe for prolonged exposure.

#### Results:

The PM 2.5 measurement showed the indoor air quality was categorized as fresh as it measured fewer than 35 particles. The use of the BobrickPure system reduced the presence of particles at or below 2.5 microns by up to 33%.

### The Findings: Surface Test

BobrickPure Hygiene Solutions were created to fight both viruses and bacteria living on surfaces. Pathogens such as Staphylococcus aureus (including the MRSA strain), E. coli, and tuberculosis are all examples of bacteria that grow and thrive within soil loads. For this testing, results were

interpreted through the following scoring system: 0 - 100 = extremely clean; 101 - 500 = clean; 501 - 2500 = needs attention.



An ATP meter was used to measure the soil load of surfaces such as counter tops, handles and flushers. This measurement indicates how well the surface supports the growth of bacteria, with lower measurements being cleaner. These measurements were taken before and after installation and the same

measurement was recorded multiple times every day for 30 days. Again, all data points were recorded and compared.

#### Results:

Initial testing showed a 40% to 55% reduction of surface contamination on counter tops, handles and flushers.

### The Findings: Hand Test

Another ATP meter was used to measure the soil load on individuals' hands at each phase of hand washing: before washing, after washing and drying with a paper towel, and after washing and drying with a PureDri hand dryer.

#### Results:

The regular hand washing process with a paper towel generally brought the soil count down significantly. Using the PureDri unit's two-step drying/sanitization process brought the soil count down by an additional 15% to 20% on average.

### The Findings: Employee Test

PureDri and PureSphere passed the air quality, surface and hand test, but did it satisfy Pipitone employees?

After four weeks, all employees were asked to rate their satisfaction with the BobrickPure Hygiene Solutions based on a scale from 1-5, with 1 being much worse than other products and 5 being much better. These categories covered air cleanliness, surface cleanliness, appearance, noise, smell, performance and overall satisfaction.

#### Results:

Multiple employees reported a fresher smell in the bathrooms. One mentioned that an “ionized” smell helped to make the air less stale and drew attention to the fact that something was working. They were also very happy with the appearance of the dryers, saying the sleek, high-tech look fit nicely with the office’s modern architecture. The light display was also very popular, with multiple people mentioning they appreciated a timer indicating each drying phase.

### Interested in knowing more about how it works?

Check out this white paper, [The Science Behind BobrickPure Hygiene Solutions](#), or contact your Bobrick representative.

### Testimonials:

“I feel more comfortable knowing there’s no bacteria or viruses in the air.”

“We spend a lot of our time in the kitchen, so knowing that everybody was using the same dryers made me feel a little bit better.”

“It would be nice if these units were everywhere. They’re beautiful.”

With BobrickPure Hygiene Solutions, Pipitone Group was able to create a work environment that helped make its employees feel better about returning to the office and congregating in shared spaces including restrooms, conference rooms and kitchen areas.

To learn more about BobrickPure Hygiene Solutions, visit [www.bobrickpure.com](http://www.bobrickpure.com)

