

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CEILING-MOUNTED CUBICLE TRACKS IN PATIENT AREAS



OR Sustainability Expert

FIRST CASE

KAREN GOELST
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First Case OR Sustainability Expert™:

UNDERSTANDING THE DOWNSTREAM CONSEQUENCES OF CEILING-MOUNTED CUBICLE TRACKS IN PATIENT AREAS

Karen Goelst | CEO & Founder of KleenEdge

Surprisingly, unlike other countries in the world, US healthcare architects and designers continue to design patient rooms at our medical facilities with cubicle tracks that are mounted on the ceiling, requiring large (expensive) mesh curtains.

Already facilities are struggling with finding a process for on-time curtain exchange compliance. It's easy to see why they are challenged; the complexity and cost of having to manage a large inventory of (non-standardized) curtain sizes is absolutely mind-boggling.

Large facilities may have up to 45 mesh curtain types; multiple widths and heights, as well as patterns to accommodate their track lengths and varying ceiling heights.

Also, undertaking ceiling mounted curtain exchanges is a significant burden on Environmental Services (EVS) staff time allocation. To exchange, you need "a man, a trip to the curtain storage area, and a tall ladder to install". It takes upward of 60 minutes to complete this process, significantly hampering room turnover and patient bed availability.

It's not surprising that curtains fly under the radar, creating significant patient and staff infection risk as they frequently remain in place too long. But how on earth can we expect EVS departments to figure out how to exchange these curtains, touched by everyone, in a timely fashion when they've been dealt such a bad hand due to terrible design!

When designing or renovating healthcare facilities all stakeholders should consider the downstream consequences of ceiling mounted cubicle tracks and explore options that will eliminate ladders.

Have more questions for this expert? Contact Karen at kgoelst@KleenEdge.com

OR Sustainability Expert Series™ Biography:

Karen Goelst

Founder & CEO



With a 20-year background in architectural specialties and textiles, Karen Goelst became passionate about solving the issues surrounding privacy curtains following her 15-year-old son's hospital stay with MRSA.

Staying at his bedside she noticed everybody touched the fabric privacy curtain, but the label showed that it hadn't been exchanged for 14 months. Thankfully her son recovered, but this realization started her journey in trying to understand why curtains weren't getting exchanged, when other touchpoints in the room were thoroughly disinfected. Karen founded KleenEdge to ensure this infection risk did not impact other families.

KleenEdge builds its privacy curtain solutions on 4 pillars:

- Protocol software that monitors curtain exchange compliance
- Sustainable cost-saving recyclable curtains
- No-ladder solutions to promote lean workflows and safety
- Patient and staff safety

Launched in 2018, the company received early accolades for its innovative Protocol Compliance Software, receiving AHE's Product Innovation Award, as well as getting patents for the QuickLoad and TeleTrack "no ladder" curtain exchange cubicle track solutions. KleenEdge's solutions have helped many healthcare facilities dramatically reduce operational costs, while having peace of mind knowing that their curtain exchanges are compliant and deliver the highest standard of care for their patient's safety.



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