

Surgical Building, Somerset

At a new hospital building in Taunton, an approaching handover deadline was put at risk by elevated Total Viable Counts (TVCs) across the site.

Despite routine manual dosing with silver stabilised hydrogen peroxide and daily outlet flushing, results would not clear, and that is when we were called in...

Problem

Ahead of practical completion, the building contractor was unable to hand the new hospital building back to the NHS Trust due to persistently elevated TVCs recorded across the water system.



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Problem continued...

The appointed water treatment specialist had been manually dosing silver stabilised hydrogen peroxide, supported by daily flushing of all outlets, as a routine control measure. Despite this ongoing regime, TVC counts remained elevated and the building could not be signed off.

With the handover date at risk, the contractor faced significant late handover penalties, and with them, mounting pressure to find a solution the existing disinfection strategy had not been able to deliver. Having heard of the effectiveness of monochloramine compared with traditional disinfectants such as hydrogen peroxide, the contractor approached Goodwater directly.

Solution

Monochloramine's ability to penetrate biofilm and maintain a stable, persistent residual made it a strong candidate where a conventional oxidising biocide had been unable to bring TVCs under control in a newly commissioned system.

Goodwater responded quickly given the time pressure on the project programme. A Sanikill monochloramine dosing system was supplied and installed within one week of first contact, a timescale critical to protecting the contractor's handover date.

Following commissioning, the system was brought up to an effective monochloramine residual across the water network, with dosing adjusted to account for the variable water usage patterns typical of a newly occupied building not yet at full operational capacity.



Sanikill One Unit – part of our Orion range

Information

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Conclusion

Within two weeks of the Sanikill system being commissioned, clear sample results were returned across the building.

This satisfied both the NHS Trust and their Authorising Engineer (Water), allowing the building to be handed over on schedule and avoiding delay to the wider project programme, along with the late handover penalties the contractor had been at risk of incurring.

Where a routine regime of manual hydrogen peroxide dosing and daily flushing had not been sufficient to bring TVCs under control, monochloramine achieved a clear result within a fortnight of deployment, underlining its effectiveness against biofilm-associated contamination in newly commissioned systems.

This case demonstrates the value of monochloramine not only in long-established, colonised systems, but also in the commissioning phase of new-build healthcare water systems, where time pressure on handover leaves little room for a disinfection strategy that fails to deliver a swift, verifiable result.

Goodwater's ability to supply, commission and stabilise a Sanikill system within a matter of weeks played a direct role in protecting the project programme and avoiding financial penalty for the contractor.

Since handover, the Trust has retained the Sanikill system as its permanent disinfection solution and has contracted Goodwater to service and maintain the unit on an ongoing basis. No bacteriological issues have been reported by the hospital since handover.

Our client was happy with the end result:



From a project delivery perspective, the Sanikill system was a valuable solution to our scheme. It addressed the TVC challenges we were facing swiftly and effectively, was simple to integrate on site, and provided a dependable level of performance and compliance assurance throughout.

The Goodwater team were exemplary in responding to our needs, performing exactly as a specialist contractor should by offering expertise service in a professional and timely manner.

— Jason Morgan, Project Manager, Kier Construction

