

A leading university with an emphasis on an academic health system is utilizing Fastenal's vending machines as a more efficient way to distribute supplies to their employees.

Initial Challenges

Managing two facility shops and a main warehouse that employ 180 maintenance workers comes with inherent challenges. Moreover, the maintenance team was being tasked with taking care of more facilities, but on a tighter budget. The main warehouse housed all of the items maintenance workers need to do their job. Manual restocking of the facility shops was done out of the main warehouse. Supervisors at the facility shops would keep some of supplies, such as gloves and tape measures, locked in their office. So, if they needed these items, workers would have to track down a supervisor, taking time out of their day. In addition, a lot of time was spent handling small stock orders and dealing with workers who would call complaining about out of stock items.

Fastenal's Vending Solution

A Supervisor of Warehouse Operations, liked the idea of the machines being able to handle the overhead stock items, and the fact that Fastenal would handle all inventory transactions. Fastenal and the university already had a strong relationship, and she knew she could depend on them for the vending solution. Fastenal installed two vending machines with two locker sets in each facility shop. The machines were custom-configured to vend high-use items like gloves, safety glasses, sawzall blades, tape measures, duct tape, and construction adhesive. The lockers are used to automatically control and track check-in/check-out of power tools and accessories (e.g., batteries).

Business Results

Shop supplies controlled via vending are now traceable to each employee. Workers have self-serve access to core items near their area of work, *when* they need it. Because Fastenal proactively monitors and replenishes the machines, the university has eliminated stock-outs for vended items, and maintenance supervisors are no longer burdened with managing and chasing down these shop supplies. The machines' controls and reporting have reduced consumption for various materials including gloves and tape measures.



"It's one of the best things that has come along to help me with my job."

- Supervisor of Warehouse Operations

Fastenal's vending solution helped the university:

- ✓ **Reduce consumption** with web-based reporting that makes workers 100% accountable for what they use
- ✓ **Improve productivity** by providing 24/7 self-serve access to products at the point of use
- ✓ **Automate ordering** by stocking inventory locally to anticipate demand, monitoring inventory online, and traveling to the campus as often as required to ensure the machines are always filled
- ✓ **Know what you need to know about every transaction** – User-defined tracking options allow customers to track each transaction by group, job, and other meaningful criteria

... All for no capital expense.

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