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**LANDSCAPES & EXTERIORS WINTER QUARTERLY 2021**

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PAVERS**  
ENHANCING TRADITION

**GREEN  
ALTERNATIVES**  
TO LANDSCAPING

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SAIEH HALL FOR ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
PRODUCTS SHOWN: Jamestown175™ Series fire rated steel windows

PHOTOGRAPHER: Tom Rossiter Photography  
ARCHITECT: Ann Beha Architects





## SAIEH HALL FOR ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



## HOPE'S SOLID STEEL WINDOWS HELP TRANSFORM HISTORIC BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

Most of us are familiar with the idea of curb appeal, and we desire to display this quality in our individual homes. Similarly, most colleges focus strongly on developing campus curb appeal, as they know the importance of the first impression for potential students and other visitors when they arrive on campus. This visual appeal, which may help students to decide where they are going to reside for the next four or more years, lies not only in the landscaping, but also in gathering places, recreation areas, and beautiful natural spaces for activities and meditation.

When I have had the privilege to walk across many of your campuses, I have seen that you spare no effort to bring out the beauty of nature in harmony with the built environment. I am always amazed by the ways each individual college campus is able to create its own unique atmosphere. This identity is the first thing visitors feel upon arrival onto a beautiful campus, and the presentation of the campus changes constantly with each season. The external spaces are often some of the most beautiful and recognized areas of campus, and the time taken by staff to maintain these places shows a real expression of care for both grounds and facilities.

To maintain that consistent curb appeal, campuses must have the right equipment in order to keep the proper aesthetic; college campuses with successful curb appeal give these issues thoughtful consideration year after year. This attention to detail makes each of your sites unique, demonstrating the care you take in all areas of campus life.

In this special edition, you will find features to help you continue to build upon your already amazing exteriors and to impress your visitors as you add new areas of beauty. Some of your visitors, like me, look forward to experiencing these beautiful grounds each visit and wonder what you are going to bring out to impress guests yet again with your expertise and eye for beauty and function. I'm looking forward to seeing what you will do this spring!

Thanks again for the privilege of sharing with you—

Ed Bauer

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# Brick Pavers

## ENHANCING THE TRADITIONAL LOOK OF THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

by Art Young

Decades after graduation, many former students can still visualize the campus where they attended college. The sights and sounds of a university campus can make for many heart-warming memories. Whether the distant sound of the band practicing for the big game or the iconic buildings and landscape found on the property itself, every university has a unique look and feel that is a powerful part of the traditions of the school.









Due to the constant traffic from thousands of students, the landscaping and outdoor amenities of modern campuses require regular maintenance and are constantly changing. However, the traditional look and feel of these campuses should be consistent.

### **Time-Honored Traditions and Change**

In many cases, time-honored, traditional construction materials such as brick are used for the new construction of walkways, patios, flower beds, fountains, and other outdoor amenities. The history of using brick for landscape enhancement such as walking paths and other spaces goes back to ancient Rome. Many brick structures exist, including roads, garden beds, and paths that have survived centuries, but the process of making this organic building material has changed over the years as different types of brick have been introduced.

### **Not All Brick is Alike**

According to Hunker.com, “Despite outward appearances, not all bricks are alike, nor are they all used for the same purpose.” For example, bricks used for building vertical structures contain holes. These bricks come in a variety of types, all designed to ensure a structure’s sturdiness. Generally, they’re used for the construction of homes or walls. The article continues, “Bricks are designed to be laid flat or stacked vertically. When building a garden, house, or wall, bricks with holes—often referred to as face bricks or structural bricks—are used. When bricks are laid in a bed of mortar, the mortar seeps into the holes and dries, securing the brick into place. This process ensures that the structure is strong and sturdy. Holed bricks are also lighter, easier to transport, and faster to lay.” Landscape architects know that not all bricks contain holes; brick pavers, which are both heavier and stronger, are designed to lay flat on the ground.

### **Clay Pavers Can Withstand the Traffic**

The constant use and resulting wear and tear on walkways and other outside amenities of a typical college campus require sturdy construction materials. Many planners have opted to use clay pavers. Solid





clay paving bricks are hard-fired in computer-controlled kilns at high temperatures to fuse the clay particles for maximum strength. This hard firing creates rich, natural colors that are impervious to ultraviolet radiation, which often causes artificially-colored concrete pavers to fade. Additionally, the clay paver surface is stain-resistant.

When clay pavers are installed in a flexible paving system, their individual strength is further enhanced by a phenomenon known as interlock. In a successful flexible paving installation, loads are distributed evenly through the interaction of pavers, jointing sand, and paving bed. Interlock can be achieved using simple tools, inexpensive bedding materials, readily available equipment, and high standards of workmanship.

### Pavers Versus Concrete for Walkways

Concrete has been used for sidewalks and other high-use areas such as factory floors for

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generations for many reasons, including cost. Concrete is cheaper than brick pavers, but—as is often the case—this material with the lower price tag often lacks the charm and sophistication of brick. What follows is a brief comparison from several online sources:

**Beauty:**

unlike concrete, pavers add a touch of elegance and tradition to the campus.

**Durability:**

unlike pavers, concrete cannot move if the earth shifts. Earthquakes or even great temperature variations can cause concrete to crack. Pavers are designed to move and flex because there is a layer of sand in between each paver.

**Ease of maintenance:**

they can be easily cleaned with a simple solution. If the pavers have been sealed, stains can be removed by using water only.



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If a concrete sidewalk or other outside amenity cracks, the entire damaged area must be removed.

With pavers, a single damaged paver can simply be replaced.

**Ease of replacement:**

if a concrete sidewalk or other outside amenity cracks, the entire damaged area must be removed. With pavers, a single damaged paver can simply be replaced.

**Strength:**

pavers are exceedingly strong and can hold the weight of a truck.

**Design flexibility:**

Pavers come in a rainbow of colors, and these can be arranged in an unlimited number of patterns.

**Brick Pavers as a Part of Campus Development Campaigns**

Honoring past students or philanthropists who make financial gifts to the university with special monogrammed pavers has proven to be a simple but effective fund-raising strategy which allows the college to recognize those who make a lasting, personal contribution to

any building project. These handsome units are made with the same attention to detail and meet the same specs as regular paving brick. With simple care, they will last decades. These monogrammed pavers come in two sizes (8" x 4" and 8" x 8") and in seven different colors. Monograms can be marked by lasers which fuse a colored glass material to the surface, creating a smooth, easy to clean and durable look on all colors of brick.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Art Young is

the author of four books, a magazine writer/editor, blogger, podcaster, broadcaster, and frequent speaker on subjects ranging from technology to healthcare to building and construction trends to outdoor sports. For more information on brick pavers for outside campus amenities, contact Acme Brick (<https://brick.com/contact-us>).





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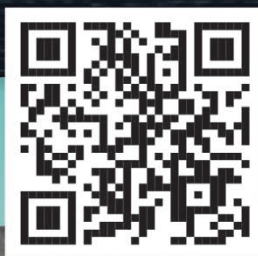
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A vibrant, sunlit garden scene. In the foreground, a bright green robotic lawn mower is partially visible on the left, sitting on a well-maintained green lawn. Behind it is a dense, colorful garden bed filled with various plants, including tall grasses, yellow daisies, and other flowering plants. In the background, there are large, leafy trees and a glimpse of a house with a chimney.

# Green Alternatives

## TO LANDSCAPING & TURF MANAGEMENT

by Joseph Conrad

Today, facility and maintenance managers have options for sturdy, electric, lithium-powered mowers that offer zero emissions, zero gas or fluids, and low noise.





The mowers and electric hand-held equipment include a wide variety of options from Push, Walk Behind, Stand On, and Zero Turn models. There are commercial cordless electric versions of trimmers, chain saws, pruners, and edging attachments, as well as battery backpack blowers. Universities can maintain their pristine campus landscaping with low noise and cleaner alternatives, even gaining LEED points in many cases.

### Electric Alternative to Fossil Fuels

The electric advantage over petroleum-driven options for outdoor power equipment is substantial. The first advantage is less noise. Electric mowers can offer extreme power, with horsepower that exceeds many commercial gas mowers in their classes, combined with stealthy operation. Most gas mowers are 95-100 decibels, whereas electric ones run at less than 80 decibels. For every six decibels' difference in sound, the noise doubles, so the reduction is striking.

Secondly, electric mowers and outdoor maintenance tools can offer zero emissions, benefiting the environment and saving money.

Outdoor, or off-road, power equipment such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, grass trimmers, farm tractors, ATVs, UTVs, and so on, are all part of a sparsely-regulated group of fossil-fuel-powered products. These products have a significant impact on our environment. Since they are not "on-road" vehicles, the EPA has put little effort into regulating emissions on these products. Due to this limited regulation, outdoor power vehicles are among the worst polluters and the least efficient products on the market today. Emissions are more than thirty times worse than on-road gas vehicles, and efficiency is near 20%. Gas-powered outdoor power equipment is so polluting that the EPA has concluded that just one 2-cycle string trimmer can produce as much emissions in one hour as one full size pick-up truck traveling over 3,000 miles.

Thirdly, electric mowers use zero gas. Electric replacements for gas engine products can run at close to 90% efficiency and only cost about 5% of the costs of operating and maintaining their gas engine rivals. This price difference means that operators can save anywhere from \$5.50-\$8.00 per hour while

mowing with an efficient zero-turn, battery-powered mower.

Finally, low maintenance is another benefit. Routine maintenance is one of the most important, time consuming, and most expensive tasks that every gas mower owner is plagued with throughout the service life of the mower. Electric alternatives require little routine maintenance. There is no internal combustion engine, so no spark plugs to clean or change, no carb/injectors to rebuild, no engine oil or filters to change, no hydraulics, no belts, no pulleys, no clutches, and no air filters. In fact, there are no oils or liquids to leak or spill. Because of these many benefits, as well as the sustainability factors, facility managers at private colleges and universities are turning more often to green alternatives.



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Joseph

Conrad is President of Mean Green Mowers. Conrad can be reached by visiting [www.meangreenmowers.com](http://www.meangreenmowers.com) or calling 513-738-4736



## YALE REPLACING GROUNDS EQUIPMENT WITH ELECTRIC ALTERNATIVES

Yale Landscape and Grounds Management is taking the initiative to replace its gas-fueled and diesel-fueled equipment with electrically-powered alternatives. The effort will improve air quality, reduce noise pollution, and help Yale in achieving its greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitment.

The effort began when Dev Hawley, Director at University Planning & Facilities Operations, actively began researching electric alternatives to gas backpack blowers. He expressed that, while the gas equipment is effective, it is loud and emits fumes that are harmful to the environment. "Electric not only helps from an emissions point of view, but it also helps with noise because the electric equipment is generally a lot quieter," says Hawley. "We're in a learning environment

where we don't really need a leaf blower or lawn mower creating lots of noise right outside of the classroom."

By reducing localized emissions and cutting back on noise, the initiative will also benefit the health and well-being of the facilities grounds staff. Working with Paul Catalano, Director of Grounds Maintenance, he put together an inventory of current grounds equipment. Yale has over thirty backpack blowers, along with a large quantity of augers, handheld blowers, tractor lawn mowers, push lawn mowers, chainsaws, hedge trimmers, string trimmers, leaf vacuums, and sweepers. To help manage its property of over 1000 acres, Yale also hires contractors. Any equipment that Yale replaces for electric will also need to be replaced by the contractors.

Gas-powered outdoor power equipment is so polluting that the EPA has concluded that just one 2-cycle string trimmer can produce as much emissions in one hour as one full size pick-up truck traveling over 3,000 miles.

*continued on page 20*

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Yale University

When considering alternatives, they looked into the price and performance of the equipment. They asked questions such as: Does the land mower cut as fast and collect the grass as well? Does the electric blower blow the leaves when the leaves are wet? While the market for electric grounds equipment is currently in a state of development and transition, they found areas of opportunity. Without any major performance compromise, they found replacements for about half of their inventory, including handheld blowers, chainsaws, push mowers, hedge trimmers, and string trimmers.

When it came to backpack blowers, they were not convinced that the electric alternatives would have ample power to perform the job efficiently. They decided on replacing half of the backpack blower supply with electric alternatives to test their performance. Hawley expects the equipment will measure up so

that they can replace the remaining supply next year.

One of the challenges that comes with the switch to electric is batteries. For the equipment to last during a day's worth of work, the battery needs to be charged midway. To account for this limitation, Yale will install a battery station at the main Grounds Management office with enough batteries to act as replacements throughout the day. This initiative is a larger reflection of Yale Facilities' efforts to reduce its environmental impact and lower its carbon footprint, supporting Yale's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

As part of a Vehicle Replacement Program for 2017, Yale Facilities needed to replace twenty fleet vehicles. After researching alternatives, they were able to replace thirteen vehicles with hybrid models that would

take advantage of a propane fueling station installed nearby this past summer. "That again is sending the message that Yale Facilities is going to drive as a priority a much more sustainable solution to everything we do, and we're really taking it from trucks all the way down to the string trimmer," says Hawley.

The new electric grounds equipment will be up and running within the year. For the remaining equipment, Yale will continue to research alternatives and expects to make progress each consecutive year. Yale is committed to building a more sustainable world. By doing what we do best—integrating science, the humanities, and our community—Yale creates, tests, and adopts innovative solutions to the environmental and social challenges we all face.

*Originally published by Yale Sustainability, Sept 2017.*



## LAWN MOWER EMISSIONS FACTS

According to an EPA study, one 3 hp lawn mower emits the same air pollution as eleven cars driving at 55 mph. Each additional hp is calculated with a linear use equation. Each 1 hp from a lawn mower = 3.67 cars at 55 mph emissions

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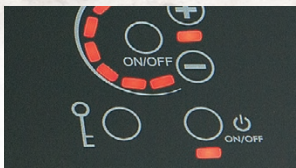
18 hp riding mower = 66 cars at 55 mph emissions, or 3,633 car miles each hour

18 hp riding mower @ 1.5 hrs (national average/week) = 99 cars at 55 mph/week, or 5,445 miles car emissions/week

18 hp riding mower used 50 hours/year = 181,650 car miles of emissions/year



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# Security Plus Aesthetics

by Brad Kamcheff

One of the highest priorities for school administrators is to keep their schools—and everyone on campus—safe from potential threats or dangerous situations. Administrators consider a wide-ranging list of security layers when implementing a comprehensive system, including visitor screening, campus-wide communication, paging integration, emergency stations, dormitory access, video recording, and monitoring.









However, another requirement for school administrators has recently surfaced. Not only do school administrators want a quality security system to identify and speak with visitors before granting access, but now school administrators also want sophisticated styles and finishes to complement and maintain the aesthetics of their buildings. This concern applies to both inside and outside of their schools and dormitories. Whether a building is a classic brick structure with a timeless look or a modern steel structure with contemporary elements, the aesthetics of security intercom components is now just as important as their reliability.

The challenge many school administrators face today is selecting a security system that provides the desired aesthetics with the required longevity and functionality. This balance can be tough for manufacturers to pull off due to cost and budget restraints. Funds are often either invested into the features and functions of a system or they are invested into the look

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and feel of the system. When features and functions are the priority, devices often have less available fit and form. This situation can result in a cheaper-looking product even though it may work as needed. When buyers desire refined materials for an appealing look, the durability of the system can be compromised and will most likely need to be replaced sooner than a system with less visual appeal.

Finding a brand that can promise both form and function in a security system is in the best interest of the decision-makers and provides users with a premium quality experience. In this era of having a variety of choices in products, decision makers no longer need to be concerned with sacrificing the aesthetics of their building's façade with clunky, outdated security systems. Many manufacturers offer a variety of finishes for exterior stations, including die cast and stainless steel. These finishes are designed to withstand everyday use at busy entrances,

offering endurance against nicks and scratches, keeping components looking new throughout the life of the system.

Mounting style can also factor into a building's décor. Surface-mount stations at entrances should have a narrow width and low-profile depth to avoid looking too old-school and chunky. Mullion-mount stations offer a slender solution for more compact locations. Flush-mount stations with a stainless-steel finish offer a timeless look for any building exterior. For the inside, sleek touchscreen stations and mobile apps offer simplicity and security for staff.

In addition to school buildings, areas like parking garages and common outdoor spaces also need to be considered. For enclosed parking garages, ADA-compliant wall boxes offer a slim profile while giving easy-to-see points to call for immediate help. For open parking lots and common areas on campus, modular towers are also easy to see and can be branded with school colors for a

Whether a building is a classic brick structure with a timeless look or a modern steel structure with contemporary elements, the aesthetics of security intercom components is now just as important as their reliability.

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With an IP intercom system, one person can regulate access and monitor activity in multiple buildings. Regardless of building sizes—or the distances between them—campus planners can connect virtually every building together while keeping a consistent look throughout.

more personal touch. Anyone on campus will know whose campus they are roaming just by high visibility of custom colors.

### Best Practices Always Look Good

Securing a college or university can be a difficult task when building aesthetics are a key factor; this big responsibility affects the lives of the entire population on campus. Campuses need to remain vigilant and continue to look for the best solutions to protect students, staff, and visitors—while meeting their desire to look good while doing it, including these considerations:

- Secure remote areas with wall boxes and towers
- Communicate with classroom stations
- Provide help points with emergency stations
- Empower office staff with interior master stations

- Control building access with door stations
- Broadcast pages, notifications, and alerts
- Design the ultimate command center
- Save time and sustain high-quality service
- Keep students safe with a feature-rich system
- Provide hassle-free versatile options

### Save with Centralized Security

With an IP intercom system, one person can regulate access and monitor activity in multiple buildings. Regardless of building sizes—or the distances between them—campus planners can connect virtually every building together while keeping a consistent look throughout. Choosing systems that reduce the overhead of added security staff is a great way to save. Additionally, high





For open parking lots and common areas on campus, modular towers are also easy to see and can be branded with school colors for a more personal touch. Anyone on campus will know whose campus they are roaming just by high visibility of custom colors.



costs can be eliminated by reusing existing network or intercom cable and by choosing a system that allows buyers to forego costly licensing fees in both single-building and multi-building applications. As savings add up, decision makers have more options to focus on aesthetics.

### Security Comes in Layers

Everyone's security requirements are different, and each situation has its own evaluation and a best-plan approach. To properly secure a campus, multiple layers should be factored in when crafting a plan for a complete solution, including the following preventative security measures:

- Combine sturdy doors and locks
- Use an access control system that requires credentials
- Install a video intercom system to screen visitors before unlocking the door

- Keep a record of who's been on campus with a compatible visitor management system (VMS)
- Choose a system with mobile app capability for roaming personnel
- Integrate a surveillance system to monitor campuses at a high-level view
- Use intrusion alarms to alert security staff of any breaches
- Complement a video intercom system with emergency stations, towers, and wall boxes to provide multiple points to call for help
- Practice CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) to ensure campus grounds and conditions hinder criminal intent

### Offering the Best Experience

Decision makers are now tasked with factoring in not only the functionality and reliability of a system, but also the look and feel. Sleek,

modern design paired with the highest quality materials adds a tremendous amount of value for users on campus. Beautiful design no longer means sacrificing reliable functionality, durability, or access to a rich portfolio of features within a system. Keeping students and staff safe is always the top priority when selecting a campus security system, and academic institutions can now provide a premium user experience to students and staff, while reinforcing their first-class brand.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Brad has been with Aiphone over thirty years. He uses innovative methods to promote and inform industry peers about Aiphone's vast intercom portfolio, award-winning quality processes, and unparalleled customer service teams. Long-time experience has helped shape his view of the security industry and become knowledgeable of its trends. [aiphone.com](http://aiphone.com).

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# Campus Clean-Up Tips

by Pierre Pereira

Blowers and vacuums have become ubiquitous in the equipment sheds of most university campuses today. We see these pieces of equipment in use for seasonal leaf, bloom, and seed clean up in spring and fall as well as litter clean up throughout the year and following events. They are often used for the seasonal chores to productively clean up sports field turf as well as the pedestrian and parking areas throughout the campus, to keep them looking their best. This article provides some productivity tips to consider when buying blowers and vacs.

## Blower Productivity and Tips

When looking at blowers, planners need to consider walk-behinds. Backpack blowers often require too much labor, and a walk-behind can accomplish just as much work and more, with less labor. Planners should consider that one 18 hp walk-behind blower can do as much work as up to seven laborers with backpacks! A 13 hp blower may be the most productive for the money, with the equivalent output of six backpacks. In addition, push blowers are often quieter than two-cycle backpacks and require no mixed fuel. Ergonomically, with walk-behind blowers, there is no weight on the back of the crews, and today's walk-behind blowers offer an optional single speed self-propelled feature that eliminates the fatigue associated with pushing units on turf or in hilly conditions. This feature leads to even better productivity. The self-propelled feature also comes in handy when loading a truck, as ramp loading can be done with no lifting. Lastly, directional air discharge is available on demand, allowing the operator to come on and off work as required by the job for precise control. For larger areas or sport fields, stand-on, zero-turn blowers offer exceptionally fast clean-up,

seamless maneuverability, and less fatigue for workers. Compact units will fit through gates, and these blowers are great on turf or hard surfaces.

## Vacuum Productivity and Tips

When looking at vacuums, key things to consider are whether the device is push or self-propelled, how easy the bag handling is, the width of the intake and ease of adjusting the intake; the ease of installing and using an optional hose kit, and the need of dust control. For mostly hard surfaces and small amounts of time spent on clean-up, an entry level push model would be best. If the crew is using vacs often—or using the vacs on turf—then a wider model is best. Self-propelled systems, easy slide out bags, and simple debris loading and unloading make for the most productive models. If the crews are frequently using the optional hose kit to clean up in hard to reach areas, then models which allow the system to easily shift between vacuum and hose kit are preferred. Also, buyers should look for systems that have height intake doors that are adjustable from the operator station to easily handle different size debris such as larger bottles or cans. Lastly, in the case of dusty

conditions, new dust socks are available to keep the dust to a minimum. These dust socks wrap around a standard turf bag. Planners should remember, however, that these bags can only be used in dry conditions. If they get wet, they will not work because water knocks out the static charge in the material that helps the bags attract the dust.

Maintenance crews who use these tips will be able to keep their campuses looking great in all seasons!



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Pierre Pereira has a fifteen-year background in the lawn and garden industry as Sr. Director of Sales for North America at Billy Goat / Briggs and Stratton, LLC and previously as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Billy Goat Industries. Pierre's industry background encompasses a wide understanding of customers' needs, products and markets and includes his own experience as a landscaper in his earlier days, earning his way through college. Pierre has served on the board of directors for the American Rental Association and received his MBA from NYU.



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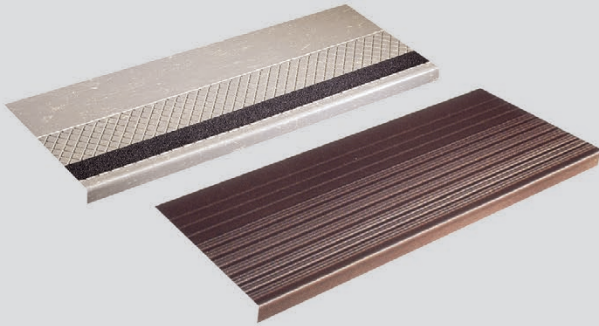
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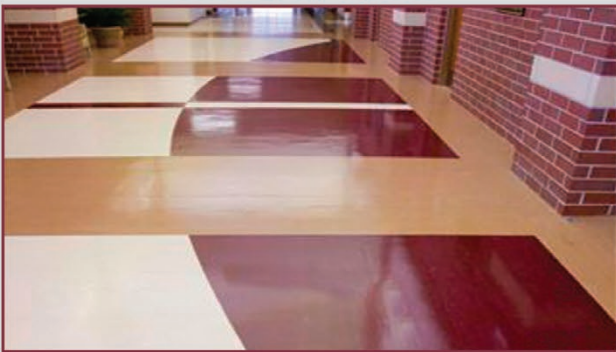
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