

BROADMOOR Saves Greenbacks by Going Green with Pillow-Vac Renovation

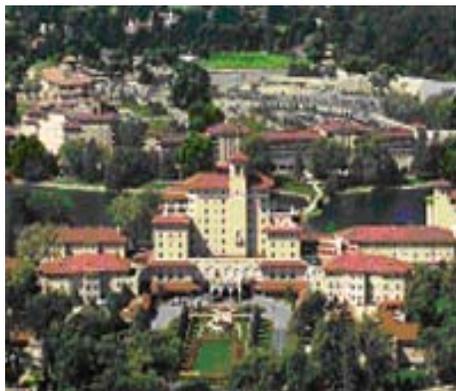
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THE BROADMOOR. Photo courtesy of THE BROADMOOR.

THE BROADMOOR, with its initial roots formed in 1918 at the base of the magnificent Rockies in Colorado Springs, Colo., has an aggressive green policy designed to help preserve the environment. One of the many expansive green programs initiated to minimize the effects of its 700-room hotel focuses on pillow renovation.

Guest pillow renovation is an ongoing green service of THE BROADMOOR, in addition to the many other conservation-based programs that include cardboard baling, energy conservation and heat recovery, irrigation of golf courses and grounds with non-potable water, and the recycling of paper, metal and plastic.

The pillow refurbishing is accomplished with a piece of equipment called a Pillow-Vac® manufactured and distributed by Harris Pillow Supply, Beaufort, S.C.

How the Pillow-Vac Works for THE BROADMOOR

Over time, pillows tend to become flat and lose their bounce, regardless of the filling. Feathers disintegrate, leaving dust. Most people who have allergies tend to think it is the feathers in the pillow that irritates them, but actually it is this dust.

The Pillow-Vac is designed specifically for pillow renovating. It uses an ozone-emitting germicidal light to kill bacteria, and to sanitize and deodorize the filling. The old pillow is cut open and emptied into a tumble chamber which has rotating brushes that expose everything to germicidal lights while breaking up clumps that have formed. It fluffs up the down clusters, and sifts out the dust that has been trapped in the pillow. If it is a feather and/or down pillow, more new filling is added to bring it back to the density of a new pillow. At the end of the cycle, all the filling is blown back into a new, 100 percent cotton feather- and down-proof ticking. The entire process takes an average of three to four minutes per pillow.

“The Pillow-Vac has been a tremendous asset to THE BROADMOOR,” says Ray Current, laundry manager of the hotel. “We use it daily with about 60 pillows a week being restored. I have been with THE BROADMOOR for 12 years. For nine years prior I worked at three Hyatts. For these past 21 years, all of these hotels had a Pillow-Vac. I can’t imagine working without one.”

Bottom Line Savings on All That Fluff

Linda Williamson, THE BROADMOOR’s buyer, said pillow replacement due to pillow failure is almost non-existent.

“With 700 guestrooms and suites I had to purchase only 400 new pillows in 2006 and less than 100 in 2007,” Williamson says. “That is incredible. The Pillow-Vac restoration process, which only takes a few minutes per pillow, basically makes a new pillow with the new ticking and renovated filling at a much lower cost than buying new pillows.”

The Green Impact of the Pillow-Vac

Consider the number of pillows required by THE BROADMOOR. With 593 rooms and each having six bed pillows, and 107 king and luxury rooms having nine pillows each, THE BROADMOOR utilizes more than 4,500 pillows on a daily basis. Consider the amount of space required in a landfill to dispose of these pillows, as well as the cost to dispose of them.

The Pillow-Vac extends the life of an average pillow indefinitely, reducing a significant effect on area landfills. The ozone-emitting germicidal light, used to kill bacteria, sanitizes and deodorizes the filling, actually replenishing ozone. THE BROADMOOR’s concern about the environment by utilizing the Pillow-Vac has a considerable impact on their bottom line and their community’s environment.



The Pillow-Vac renovates pillows in three to four minutes, eliminating costly replacement.



A guestroom at THE BROADMOOR.
Photo courtesy of THE BROADMOOR.

In addition, some hotels and motels (not THE BROADMOOR) mistakenly try to wash their pillows. Machine washing down pillows destroys the integrity of down, and often will release countless feathers and down into the washing machine. The end result of this ill-fated attempt includes wasted water, wasted energy to heat the water, and the addition of needless detergents into the water drainage system.

About THE BROADMOOR

THE BROADMOOR is located in Colorado Springs, Colo. It has undergone major expansion and renovation since its inception back in 1918. Today, it is a 3,000-acre luxury hotel facility with 593 guestrooms and 107 luxury suites, 185,000 square feet of flexible event space, 15 restaurants and cafes, three golf courses, a tennis club, and a world class spa. Go to <http://www.broadmoor.com/>.

About Harris Pillow Supply

Harris Pillow Supply was founded by William Harris in 1958 to renovate quality pillows for hotels, motels, hospitals and other multi-bed facilities including prisons, military bases and nursing homes. In 1957 he borrowed as much money as he could to buy the existing inventory of pillow cleaning machines from the then bankrupt Fluff 'n Puff. Later, with the aid of an engineer friend, he redesigned the machine to its present state.

In 1979, John Harris came to work with his father with a background in marketing and sales management. The following year Harris Pillow Supply moved to Beaufort, SC. Its business has grown to include more than 1,700 customers in every state, Canada, Mexico, and countries such as Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Germany, England, Turkey, Brazil, the Azores, Sweden, Barbados, and Australia. Harris Pillow Supply is the only company to manufacture a pillow renovating machine, the Pillow-Vac.

In 2003, John succeeded William in becoming president. In 2004 Patrick Harris, the third generation of Harris men, started. He brought graphic design and marketing experience with him.

Harris Pillow Supply is a family-owned business that has been around more than 50 years. In addition to manufacturing the Pillow-Vac, Harris also specializes in manufacturing high-end pillows for quality conscious customers in the worldwide hotel and motel industry. Only the finest quality feather and down pillows, 100 percent down, and polyester cluster fiber pillows are made for the hospitality industry and decorators.

As the manufacturer, Harris is able to accommodate any specifications you may have regarding fill weight or feather and down blends. By purchasing direct from the manufacturer rather than through a distributor, you not only save money, but are assured of getting exactly what you want.

For more information on Harris Pillow Supply, the Pillow-Vac and the complete line of pillows and supplies, visit <http://www.harrispillow.com/>, call John Harris or Patrick Harris at (800) 845-8240, or e-mail them at john@harrispillow.com or patrick@harrispillow.com.

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Harris Pillow manufactures high-quality pillows for hotels and motels.

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