Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. Define basic lighting terms; explain how natural light can be used to meet a building’s lighting needs; and describe common artificial light sources.
2. Describe lighting system design elements, including light levels, luminaries, color rendition, safety, and emergency lighting.
3. Describe lighting systems maintenance and identify energy conservation opportunities.
4. Describe laundry transport equipment, dryers, ironers, folders, and valet equipment.
5. Discuss factors in locating a laundry and selecting laundry equipment.
6. Describe laundry layout, utilities, and labor.

Unit Summary

This unit consists of two primary areas of concentration: lighting systems and laundry systems.

Lighting systems affect several aspects of physical plan management. The character and direction of light influence building colors and textures. Light's optical characteristics affect the appearance of surface finishes and ceilings. Some properties make major use of lighting to attract customers and create an image; casino hotels are obvious examples. The nature and level of illumination affect employee efficiency and customer comfort. A building's lighting system influences HVAC system design and operation (because of the heat given off by the lights), a building's interior design (because of the dimensions of the lighting fixtures), electrical design, and the economics of investment (because the lamps and their controls are part of the initial investment). Finally, lighting plays an important role in safety and security.

The second section of this unit focuses on laundry systems. Lodging properties in the United States often operate an on-premises laundry for processing all or most of their laundry. In contrast, lodging properties elsewhere in the world usually have their laundry cleaned and processed by outside contractors. Some U.S. chains operate regional laundry facilities where laundry from several of the chain’s hotels are processed, providing an off-site laundry similar to a commercial laundry, but retaining corporate control over laundry standards.

There are several advantages to operating an on-premises laundry. Many properties enjoy significant savings because processing their own laundry costs them less than paying a commercial laundry to do it. Properties can get by with smaller linen inventories. The life of laundry items is extended; fewer laundry items are lost or damaged. The quality of finished laundry is higher. And the property has complete control of the operation—there is no dependence on an outside laundry's deliveries.