
Bottled Coolers V Mains Fed Coolers

It is rather obvious that mains fed water is far better than stored type equipment and the following article rather says it all. If you are unable to change your current type



that has a bottle placed on the top, a cover to prevent any multiplication of bacteria due to sun light or florescent light that is placed over the bottle is a smart move.

This is a typical cover.

You can get some really funky ones on the web if you are flush with a few pounds. Try this link as a starter

<http://www.coolercoverups.com/currentcollection.html>

Read on about coolers in schools.

Water coolers

It's critical that schools do their homework when it comes to identifying the best value water supplier, both in terms of product quality and service range



With the Government making a strong commitment to improving the health of schoolchildren, including the quality of provision and access to fresh drinking water, so water cooler providers have increasingly targeted primary and secondary schools. However, with some 250 water cooler companies in the UK, it's critical that schools do their homework when it comes to identifying the best value supplier, both in terms of product quality and service range. Since a 2003 Department of Health Water Provision Pilot Project in schools revealed that pupils were not drinking enough water because existing facilities were unappealing and inadequate, ensuring that children stay hydrated has been high up on the education agenda.

Long term service

The pilot, which was advised on and researched by the children's health charity ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence), looked at 40 schools across the North East and East Midlands and the impact of its findings resulted in a phenomenal growth in water coolers being installed in primary and secondary schools.

However, with so many water cooler companies now operating in the UK, Gary Roethenbaugh, research and development director at Zenith International, the leading research consultancy for the food and drink industry, warns that schools need to be wary of what they are buying into as what might appear to be the most

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economic solution on the surface may not be in the long term. He says: “Feedback from the education marketplace suggests that schools are being left disappointed by the level of service and quality of product.

“Those responsible for the provision of water in schools must check the credentials of their water cooler provider, because the bottom line is the long-term service given. Qualities such as the track record and existing customer base of companies, as well as client testimonials, are good places to start.”

ERIC, which runs the Water’s Cool in School campaign to improve the quality of provision and access to fresh drinking water for all pupils in the UK, has published a water provision checklist for schools available from www.wateriscoolinschool.org.uk. Says director and founder of the charity Penny Dobson: “We have been encouraging schools to install modern hygienic water facilities and **quality mains fed water coolers** designed for robust use in schools. Pupils want to drink from the same attractive facilities routinely enjoyed by adults in offices and perceived by children as desirable.

Our guidance to schools points out the importance of the water being fed from the mains and not storage tanks and that it is chilled and palatable. Water coolers need to be safe and hygienic and therefore should be regularly monitored as well as serviced and sanitised on a regular basis. Mains fed water coolers are more practical and cost effective in schools than bottled coolers.”

Enhanced water provision for pupils

The experience of Premier Watercoolers indicates that schools are responding proactively to the government’s call to enhance water provision for their pupils. Premier is one of the UK’s largest independent providers of mains fed water coolers and is the only company of its kind to be endorsed by the Health Education Trust, an independent charity committed to delivering best practice solutions for healthier food and drink in schools. Some 500 of Premier’s Hi-Flo Plus units have been sold into schools since the middle of last year when it was launched to the education market.

Phil Langley, managing director of Premier Watercoolers, says: “We have experienced demand from schools that are installing water coolers for the first time and also those that have been disappointed with their existing provider due to service promises being unfulfilled and low product quality. At Premier we have made a considerable investment in creating a total service package which is in line with Government objectives and the guidance provided by ERIC’s Water is Cool in School campaign. This covers the supply of equipment, installation, a six-monthly sanitisation and hygiene visit, preventative maintenance and a guaranteed time frame for call outs.

Product quality

“As regards product quality, it is key that units are fitted with anti-theft drip trays to ensure they do not go missing, thereby safeguarding against pupils slipping over on water and causing injury to themselves. We recommend coolers are fitted to mains drainage rather than drips trays and they should also be fixed to the wall with security cover to protect all water and electrical connections. Furthermore they should incorporate a protected dispense nozzle for enhanced hygiene and to reduce the risk of interference with the dispense heads.”

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The PFI-built Wootton Bassett School, in Wiltshire, procured mains-fed watercoolers from Premier following requests from students to provide more water outlets. The School's business manager Husham Khan explains: "Previously, pupils had the choice of one water fountain and tap water from the restaurant and we recognised this could be improved. We also needed a product that was extremely robust and could 'stand up' to the needs of schoolchildren. Therefore, mains-fed was the best option because the supplier we found was cost-effective as well as having well-installed, hardwearing products." Adds Khan: "The result is that pupils are drinking more water, which is helping to improve their health and wellbeing."

For more information

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