

Is there a solution to micro litter?



By James Daniels*

For too long, councils, contractors and private facility owners/operators have been facing a never-ending battle when it comes to litter control and unfortunately for many, it's a losing battle – especially when it comes to micro litter such as cigarette butts.

Due to the nature of micro litter and the areas in which it tends to be discarded, collection and removal using traditional methods such as sweeping or manual picking, tends to be cumbersome, time consuming and, in many instances, largely ineffective.

Interestingly, one of the major issues when it comes to litter control is that the focus has almost exclusively been on using larger mechanised sweepers that can only be used after hours when pedestrian activity is at a minimum. My question is, why not deliver mechanised cleaning services during business hours?

The other major issue is equipment access – especially around street furniture, litter bins and permanent infrastructure such as café screens and the like. In these instances, when a traditional sweeper is unable to gain access to certain areas of pavement, a typical solution has been to use a hand-held blower to move the waste debris into an area that can be accessed by the sweeper. This not only results in more noise, its



time-consuming, requires twice the effort, and can only be done while there are no pedestrians in the immediate vicinity.

With that in mind, Applied Cleansing Solutions placed an emphasis on providing equipment which can be used during the day – even while pedestrians are in the immediate vicinity. Units that collect the litter without having to be moved from one place to another – with minimal noise and inconvenience to shoppers, retailers, diners, and local residents. The Glutton Vacuum Litter collector will deliver these requirements quietly and efficiently.

The Glutton is a mobile, easy to handle machine, which can collect all kinds of waste in both indoor and outdoor applications. Operating at audible levels of near silent, the Glutton can be used around pedestrians.

The machine's innovative filtration system emits return filtered air at less than one micron. This feature, along with a width of 750 mm, allows the Glutton to pass through a standard 820 mm doorway to deliver services at airports, warehouses and various industrial applications.

The vacuum system is powerful enough to deal with urban waste, paper, cans and plastic containers. Difficult items like sand, silt and dust are no problem for the Glutton.

It will work for a whole shift of eight hours before requiring charging. Charging the traction battery pack is simple via the unit's on-board smart charger and requires only a standard 240 volt power supply.

The Glutton costs less than \$1 per hour to operate and requires very little maintenance due to its innovative design.

According to ACS, the Glutton will change the way litter and micro litter is collected because it can reach areas that normal mechanised sweeping machines cannot deal with.



*James Daniels is managing director of Applied Cleansing Solutions, www.cleansingmachine.com.au