

The initiative to systematically improve and examine the efficiency of restrooms

世田谷区教育委員会

Outline

- Initially, implemented the full refurbishment of restrooms in 2-3 schools and large scale renovations of restrooms in 2-3 school a year. (In 1998, out of 96 municipal schools, 20 schools were renovated including 5 newly built schools)
- From 1998, to improve school restroom environments we set up the Setagaya Ward Elementary & Junior High School Restroom Improvement Examination Committee to debate the condition and future direction of restrooms.
- In 1999, we chose three model schools and while renovating, wrote the "Setagaya Ward Municipal School Restroom Renovation Manual."
- Afterward, we established the "School Restroom Study Group" around the Senior Director for Building and Repairs and the Board of Education Secretariat Facilities Division to, based on the experience of the model schools, improve the School Restroom Construction Specifications Document with the purpose of standardizing, improving laborsaving, expediting, and reducing costs.
- Presently, providing feedback on the usability of restrooms and newly added facilities, we revise the Specifications Document roughly every two years. (latest revision was made in September 2010).

Implementing the renovation of a large number of restrooms that need improvement having a certain standard of usability and design, swiftly and economically.

Stably continuing to perform the works while constantly reviewing the standards.



Examining the usability and design

Looking for the ideal model

The establishment of the Setagaya Ward Elementary and Junior High School Restroom Improvement Committee
Debating the condition and future direction of restrooms

Choosing three model schools

- Understanding the present conditions: fact-finding inquiry, questionnaires, children meeting, etc.
- Spreading know-how on restrooms and raising awareness: workshops, lectures, participating in planning.
- Making use of and embodying the above in the planning concepts (main points)
 - a place that is bright, clean and relieving (i.e. make use of windows, proper ventilation, proper washstands, with a feeling of spaciousness)
 - an appropriate size for children's bodies (proper booth size, choosing toilets that are in tune with the age)
 - toilets chosen by the children (deploying western-style and Japanese style toilets appropriately, diversifying the plans)
 - Easy-to-clean restrooms (As a general rule, use dry-style cleaning; in places that are prone to becoming soiled, wet-style cleaning, rimless Japanese-style toilets, simple designs)

"Setagaya Ward Municipal School Restroom Renovation Manual"
Distributing copies containing the process of embodiment of expectations, usability and design of the model schools (in soft and hard)

Standardization,
Laborsaving,
Swiftness, Cost
reduction

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Characteristics and challenges of the model schools

- Investigating labor-saving options when taking into consideration the opinions of each schools' users as this leads to higher construction costs and time
- Comprehensive view of both costs and desired usability

Examples

- Flexible plans vs. larger construction works
- Booth material durability vs. costs
- Booth height necessary to ensure privacy vs. costs
- Costs due to different waterproofing efficiency and methods
- Installing book bag stand vs. costs
- Using highly cleanable wall hanging toilets vs. costs

Revising the Construction Specifications Document

Reflecting the standardization, laborsaving, swiftness and cost reduction principles of the "Setagaya Ward Municipal School Restroom Renovation Manual" in the School Restroom Construction Specifications Document

< Main specifications from the document >

- Install book bag stands in toilet booths
- Using privacy partitions instead of doors
- Installing stones that prevent staining and odors, in front of urinals (Odare stone)
- The washstand water faucets will have sensors.
- It is preferable to ask the children/students their opinions regarding coloring.
- Avoid the removal of existing floors and wall finishing as much as possible.
- Dry-style floors.
- Build the toilet booth partitions from floor to ceiling.
- Use booth doors with a finger nipping prevention function.
- Make the booths out of strong solid boards.
- Install at least one Japanese-style toilet for the boys and the girls restroom on each floor.
- Build at least one multifunctional toilet for boys and girls on each floor having a toilet seat with a washer.
- Etc.

Continuous revision

Pursuing making restrooms comfortable by introducing new facilities and inspecting the usability of restrooms having in mind the principles previously stated.

