

# EXCLUSIVELY CONTENTS

R E S T O R E   W H A T   M A T T E R S

Vol.20, Issue 6

## CONTENTS PROS/LOCAL CITIZENS

Save Schools an Estimated  
\$3,000,000 from  
Smoke Damage

Fragile, Expensive  
Books Restored

Provided By Your Contents Restoration Partner



5640 Knott Ave.

Buena Park, CA 90621-1808

**Phone: 1-800-589-2740**

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## Coronavirus Deactivators

# THE CONTENTS PROS WHO SAVED \$3,000,000 BY CLEANING AND RESTORING

During the big fires in Southern California a restoration company (with a fully equipped contents division) was asked to clean, deodorize and decontaminate a small group of schools in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Each school had about 30 or so classrooms, offices, libraries, bathrooms etc., and before the contents team could complete this assignment, they were asked to take a look at the rest of the schools in the area.

The team did such an exemplary job of HEPA vacuuming, wet wiping, HVAC cleaning, deodorization etc., that the school district asked them to keep going and do the same for all the schools in the district.

The team exceeded all expectations – the jobs were all finished in three weeks and almost 8,000 students and teachers returned to school a week early.

The school representatives remembered them about a year later, when a new fire broke out between the same two counties, destroying old movie and TV show sets, celebrity homes and thoroughly contaminating schools in 5 districts.

In all, 50 schools were affected and needed the contents pros.

When the call came in, the company's 70 front line workers were already deployed in 5 different schools and the owner didn't dare reduce that number in order to tackle all the new jobs.

So using the successful strategy that had worked so well the year before, the owner considered hiring day workers to help fill in the ranks. But he really needed people who were dedicated

to the success of the mission – because every day the schools remained closed was another day the students and faculty lost.

This time, he and his staff called friends, relatives and even people whose communities were directly affected by the fire and smoke.

The ones who agreed to come, were supervised by his more experienced team members.

He explained, "We had retired firemen, contractors, parents of students that attended the schools, we had people from all walks of life...we were helping them, they were helping us."

He even reached out to other companies and hired project managers to oversee individual schools.

Ash kept raining down and at one point a fire re-ignited behind two of the schools, but the restoration company owner had chosen right – the front line workers grabbed hoses and fought the fires in the brush until the fire fighters could get to them.

And when the Malibu school district called, they explained that they had 5 schools that really needed the restoration pros – but the fire had knocked out their power.

In all there were about 24,000 students and faculty without schools.

The contents pros (and their new found friends) pushed on and in the end, they saved an estimated \$3,000,000 over replacement costs. Air and surface testing showed all the schools were safe, and the students lost only 7-10 days of school.

The contents pros do the extraordinary on every job – and sometimes we get a little help from our friends.

## IN HOUSE WASHING SAVES MILLIONS

Some contents restoration companies have elected to perform in-house laundering of virally infected or smoke-impregnated soft contents.

In fact various restoration companies have banded together to support others with similar machines. One such consortium claims, "...North American insurance companies saved over \$5,000,000 in a sample of 634 insurance claims."

Others point out that their machines (largely located in hospitals and resorts), clean and restore (conservatively) 20 to 30 million pounds of soft goods every day.

Both companies have created washing machines for the restoration industry and both have developed computers that release cleaning and antibacterial solutions during the washing process.

This includes pre-programs for the contents professionals that enables them to remove the smoke, soot, bacteria, mold, and other contaminants from fires, floods, sewage back-ups and medical hazards.

Many restoration companies (that don't process soft contents in house) still opt for using the dry-cleaning and laundering agencies that specialize in contents decontamination.





## FRAGILE AND EXPENSIVE BOOKS RESTORED



When Hurricane Ike slammed into Galveston Texas, it tore through a two-story book store like a locomotive – leaving the first floor with a foot of mud, debris, and thousands of rare and vintage books scattered, damaged and some floating in severely contaminated water.

The contents team wasn't called in until 2 weeks after the disaster and by that time, the second floor was riddled with mold.

They could only send in one person at a time, so each contents pro helped make a path for the one that followed. They all wore PVC boots, Tyvek suits and full-faced respirators with organic filters. And through sheer determination and practiced skill, the frontline workers managed to get all the books and shelves packed out on the first floor and back to their headquarters for further cleaning and restoration in just 5 days – in spite of the fact that there was a city-wide ordinance that forced them to close down at 5 p.m. each day.

The owner and two of her

employees went upstairs and after carefully wiping down the fragile and expensive books, carefully packed them all in over 150 boxes – which were transported to temporary storage in four trucks.

Once all the books were safely removed, the team disinfected the entire building – cleaning and destroying the mold and bacteria that still remained. They took up the carpet with nothing but the bare bones of the store remaining, the team chose to spray disinfectant on every visible surface with a power washer.

The power was out, so they supplied their own and dried the structure with nine dehumidifiers and powerful air movers.

The whole assignment was completed in 15 days and in an article for R&R Magazine, the owner was quoted as saying, "The store looked like a disaster area, and everyone knows that water and books do not go together well..." "We couldn't be happier with the way things turned out."

## CORONAVIRUS DEACTIVATORS

There is a website (and download) from the American Chemistry Council that lists products that have been pre-approved by the EPA. It says in part, "The American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Center for Biocide Chemistries (CBC) has compiled a list of products that have been pre-approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use against emerging enveloped viral pathogens and can be used during the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. This product list is not exhaustive but can be used by business owners, health professionals, and the public to identify products suitable for use during the COVID-19."

It can be found here:

<https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>.

Expect more products to be added to the list in the near future.

A good example of ones that weren't on the first list, but certainly are now (List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2), are the thyme-based products that are virucidal against HIV and Influenza A including the Pandemic 2009 H1N1 on hard, non-porous, inanimate surfaces.

The contents pros have been watching this list with the anticipation that solutions they have known and trusted for years will soon appear there. Until then, they will use only EPA approved disinfectants and sanitizers on those assignments that require them.



## THE 70% SOLUTION (INSIDER'S SECRET)

The contents professionals have known for a long time that a 70% alcohol gel or solution is better than 90% alcohol for killing encapsulated viruses. 70% has a little water in it and can denature and break the encapsulation, thus destroying the virus within.

A higher concentration of alcohol will (in effect) "cook" the exterior wall of the virus causing it to "crust over" and protect the virus within.

62% alcohol (like some hand sanitizers) may not be enough, 99% can dry out the membrane and turn it into a shield, 70% has worked with other viruses it is the concentration that physicians use in an operating theater – contents professionals know this – workers without proper training, don't.

Please don't misunderstand, we aren't saying that alcohol kills COVID-19. We are simply pointing out that encapsulated viruses (COVID-19 is an encapsulated virus) are known to deactivate when exposed to 70%) -- and often don't when exposed to higher or lower percentages.





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**COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUES OF CONTENTS SOLUTIONS**



**SMOKE DAMAGE?  
CALL THE CONTENTS PROS**



**WATER DAMAGE?  
WE CAN HELP**



**SANITIZING OFFICES, SCHOOLS  
AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS**