# **Avidbots**<sup>®</sup>

## The value of clean

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any of our earliest memories revolve around admonishments to stay clean and tidy—
Clean your room. Pick up after yourself.
Wash behind your ears! Concepts of cleanliness have been with us since the beginning. The term "hygiene" comes to us from the Greek goddess of health, Hygieia. The ancient Romans pioneered public health with aqueducts, communal baths and complex sewer systems. Hygiene took on greater importance as the germ theory of disease became commonly accepted in the nineteenth century. A host of technologies designed to clean entered homes and businesses with the advent

of a consumer technology culture — dishwashers, washer/dryers, vacuums, air purifiers and many more. With advances in machine learning came robots and autonomous tools to do the cleaning for us, typically in a more effective and efficient way. Cleanliness is about much more than the act of removing dirt and preventing illness; in many ways, it is the yardstick of civilization and polite society. We avoid people and places we consider dirty.

Despite the fact that we naturally prefer areas we characterize as clean, many businesses have traditionally considered the function of keeping their properties clean to be an afterthought — a non-strategic task that adds nominal value. Certainly, facilities management and janitorial activities are required in most industries, and yet these efforts are often viewed by leadership in the same category as paying the electric bill or keeping the supply closet stocked. They've been considered "must-do's," but a low overall priority compared to revenue-generating activities.

After 2020, the concept of cleanliness will never again be underappreciated. On a global scale, people are profoundly cognizant of the hygiene within their surroundings, even in areas they may not have given much thought to in the past. In commercial and public settings, facility managers have embraced autonomous floor scrubbing technology as a means to step up to new expectations for sanitization. One industry-leading solution organizations continue to choose is Avidbots Neo. Designed for large, high-traffic spaces, Neo is the world's fully autonomous cleaning robot. As a multi-application robot, Neo can also disinfect high-touch surfaces in addition to floor care, making for a highly-effective cleaning solution. Today, cleanliness is no longer a preference; it's a crucial component of public safety and something businesses cannot avoid or devalue.



The value of clean

#### The employee experience

Most public spaces such as restaurants and retail operations have reopened since the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. For consumers, visiting these locations is voluntary. If someone does not feel safe in their local shopping mall, for instance, there is always the option to stay in and conduct one's shopping online. This flexibility, however, does not exist for many workers. Remote work is much more common, but is by no means universal. While the prevalence of employees required to work on-site varies widely by industry, the vast majority of the workforce (75 to 80 percent) still needs to be in an office or facility at least part of the time.<sup>1</sup>

For employers, serving the needs of the post-pandemic employee has become a paramount concern. With more than four million workers quitting their jobs every month in "The Great Resignation," competition for qualified staff is fierce.<sup>2</sup> The perception of clean and safe workspaces has surfaced as a recruiting differentiator. Work-fromhome is such a common model now that businesses not taking steps to make their on-site employees feel safe, risk productivity loss or worse yet, labor shortages. Furthermore, the definition of cleanliness and degree of sanitation also varies by industry. A hospital or clinic will naturally require a higher level of disinfection. A manufacturing plant or warehouse setting that generates airborne particulates must clean more often to protect its people.

The takeaway is that businesses can no longer afford to cater to customers and clients alone. Front-line workers have new expectations and more options, so employers who do not enhance the employee experience through clear, enforced cleanliness protocols do so at their own peril.



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#### The customer experience

The competition for a customer's share-ofwallet is a more traditional consideration that most business leaders understand intuitively. Yet, consumer behavior has changed in the past several years. When going out in public, nearly 86 percent of people are willing to take measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps the easiest measure is to avoid patronizing brick and mortar businesses perceived as less clean (and, thus, more likely to result in virus transmission). In response, businesses with customer foot traffic are using cleanliness as a beacon of safety. Similar to employees, they're doing it in large and small ways: offering hand sanitizer, distributing masks, displaying signage outlining cleaning procedures and deploying floor scrubbing robots. Such actions help create inviting spaces, bolster brand perception and clearly communicate that the business takes the health of its customers seriously.

#### **Industry Spotlight**

Some business types have higher foot traffic, requiring more frequent disinfection.<sup>1</sup>



of hospital and clinic employees are in close physical proximity to others



of big box and shopping mall retail workers must interact with customers



of employees in the transportation industry have close customer contact



#### An automated solution for clean

Autonomous floor scrubbers, a swiftly emerging technology, have gained acceptance across a wide range of commercial and public settings. Neo, powered by Avidbots Autonomy, is a fully autonomous multi-application cleaning robot for large, high-traffic spaces. As a multi-application robot, in addition to autonomous floor care, Neo can disinfect high-touch 3-D surfaces with the Disinfection Add-On. The Neo solution features dynamic mapping capabilities with real-time obstacle avoidance, making it efficient and effective.

#### **Avidbots Neo features**

Neo is the world's leading multi-application cleaning robot for large, commercial spaces. Using Al-driven automation, advanced hardware, cloud software and live services, Neo automatically navigates and cleans in dynamic environments.

#### Heavy duty, professional-level cleaning

Neo is ruggedly built with high-capacity water tanks, swappable long-life batteries and adjustable speed and water flow for heavy-duty cleaning.

#### Safe, secure operation

Designed with human and physical environment safety in mind, Neo's onboard suite of sensors and cameras deliver flawless navigation to avoid obstacles large or small. Neo is designed with several on-board safety features to protect both the robot and its environment.

#### Simple, versatile cleaning configurations

The user-friendly touch screen interface and manual steering option make Neo easy to use. Disc and cylindrical brush configurations are available in multiple sizes to suit a wide range of facility floors and tasks.

## Remote fleet management and performance metrics

Managers can check in on Neo at any time, from anywhere in the world, and get a host of useful information using the Avidbots Command Center web-based app.

The Avidbots Command Center is an intuitive, always-on, multi-language interface — accessible from any web-enabled device — to monitor, manage and track Neo(s) in real time, 24/7/365. The full reporting suite provides key metrics to ensure the robot is used to its full potential.

#### 3-D surface disinfection

With Neo's Disinfection Add-On, organizations can achieve a consistent, fully autonomous and measurable electrostatic disinfection every time.

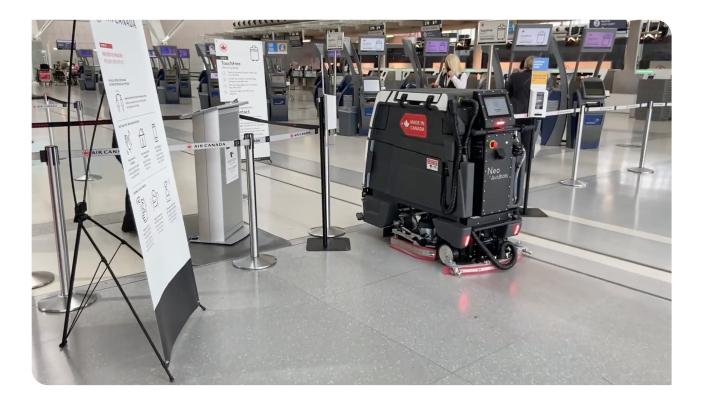
#### Maximizing worker efficiency

With Neo cleaning the facility's floor area, management can assign staff to the core-business activities. Not only does that maximize the amount of high-value tasks that workers are able to complete, it can reduce employee injuries and absences due to repetitive strain and fatigue.

#### A sea change in thinking

In the wake of the pandemic, employees and consumers have changed the conversation around cleanliness. Far from the checklist item it once was, cleaning is now a top priority requiring more staff and time. Companies will need to dedicate additional resources to cleaning activities and two-thirds of businesses are looking to AI and automation to help with bulk cleaning efforts in order to avoid burdening staff with extra responsibilities.<sup>1</sup>

Regardless of the means to maintain clean, pleasant environments, those who occupy such spaces demand one thing from businesses — that they do everything possible to keep patrons and personnel safe and healthy. Hygieia would approve.



#### Sources

- 1. McKinsey Global Institute, The Future of Work After COVID-19, Feb 2021
- 2. US Department of Labor Statistics, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Summary, Nov 2021
- Journal of Medical Internet Research, The US Public's Perception of the Threat of COVID-19 During the Rapid Spread of the COVID-19 Outbreak: Cross-Sectional Survey Study, Feb 2021

#### Why Avidbots?

Buying an Avidbots Neo isn't just buying a floor scrubber. It's investing in a technological future that can redefine your cleaning function, making it more productive, more cost effective and easier to run. More importantly, our robotics and AI technology open up new opportunities to make your business even more successful. We realize this isn't just about buying a product, or a technology, or even a business proposition. You want to buy into a trusted partner who can take you into the future of automated operations using cutting edge robotics. At Avidbots, we work side-by-side with our customers to earn that trust and realize all the benefits that robotics can bring them.



#### About us

Avidbots is a robotics company with a vision to make robots ubiquitous to unlock humanity's potential with a hyperfocus on autonomous cleaning. Our groundbreaking product, the Neo fully autonomous floor scrubbing robot, is deployed around the world and trusted by leading facilities and building service companies. Headquartered in Kitchener, ON, Canada, Avidbots is offering comprehensive service and support to customers on 5 continents.

#### Contact us

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