

Case Study:

Pecan Deluxe and Meritech Partner in Hygiene Excellence for Over 20 Years to Ensure the Highest Standards in Food Safety

BACKGROUND OF PECAN DELUXE



Pecan Deluxe started as an ice cream shop, but in 1960 decided to branch out and began selling their unique ingredients to other food companies. They have become the name that hundreds of dairy, retail, foodservice, and confectionery brands turn to when they want innovative new tastes. Pecan Deluxe is a third generation family-owned business and the founder's pioneering spirit continues to guide the company's ongoing success.



2008



HISTORY OF HYGIENE PARTNERSHIP



Meritech and Pecan Deluxe started their hygiene partnership back in 2002. At the beginning of the partnership, Pecan Deluxe had two CleanTech® 400 handwashing stations installed in their hygiene zone. These handwashing stations look a lot different than the stations that Meritech produces today, with an open front and a traditional sink faucet attachment for washing off heavy debris. From 2002 until 2017, these two handwashing stations were the only Meritech equipment that Pecan Deluxe had at its facility.

2017



In 2017, Pecan Deluxe wanted to upgrade their hygiene program by including footwear sanitizing stations. This was the beginning of the "sanitize in, scrub out" layout in Pecan Deluxe's hygiene zone. By retrofitting Boot Dip pans onto the CleanTech® 400, employees were able to get a simultaneous hand wash and footwear sanitizing event before heading into the main production zone. Upon leaving the production zone, employees would use the XBW Soles-Only Automated Boot Scrubber to scrub and remove debris from the bottom of footwear. This "sanitize in, scrub out" method of entering and exiting the production zone ensured that employees always had pathogen-free, clean footwear.

HISTORY OF MERITECH PARTNERSHIP CONT. ▼

In 2021, Pecan Deluxe had grown significantly since it first partnered with Meritech and needed a handwashing station that could support the increased employee shift size. After 19 years of using the CleanTech® 400 handwashing stations, Pecan Deluxe decided to make an upgrade to the higher-throughput CleanTech® 4000S station. With three bays for handwashing and integrated Boot Dip pans, this station vastly improved the efficiency of the hygiene zone helping a larger number of employees to get to the production floor quicker.



Pecan Deluxe continues to be a close partner in hygiene excellence, and in 2024 upgraded from the 4000S to the latest CleanTech® EVO Automated Handwashing Station. The new EVO Three station still provides the clinically-validated 99.9% pathogen removal associated with all Meritech CleanTech® equipment, but has several new features to meet Pecan Deluxe's needs. To aid in tracking hygiene compliance, the EVO station provides detailed usage statistics by week, day, and time of day, all displayed on its interactive screen. As companies grow, storage space can become limited. The EVO station uses smaller solution cartridges, helping Pecan Deluxe save on essential storage space.



BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED HYGIENE FOR PECAN DELUXE ▼



In 2021, Pecan Deluxe won the Food Quality and Safety Award for Large Business. This award was presented to them for their unwavering focus on continuous improvement to employee training programs and building strong food safety plans. In a quote from Food Quality and Safety, **"The automated hand- and boot-washing system, along with more training focused on personal sanitation, led to a significant improvement in employees using the system. The current level of compliance based on hand swabs is 98.3%."**

In addition to continuing to see high levels of compliance with the CleanTech stations, the executive VP of Food Safety and Quality at Pecan Deluxe, Stephen Posey, spoke to how easy employees find the Meritech equipment to use. **"The easier you make it, the more compliant they are. That's one of the great things we like about the Meritech units, its very easy. You walk up, you stand where you are supposed to stand, and it does all the work for you!"**

Scan the QR code to watch a video and learn more about Pecan Deluxe's success with Automated Hygiene Equipment

