PARCsafe

Upgrading carparks to touchless technology

5 hygiene technologies to consider in a modern carpark design

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 has highlighted the need for consumers to minimise contact with high traffic touch points whenever they're in public.

Yet far from being the *"once in 100 years"* event it was initially called, experts now warn that pandemics may become an even more common problem thanks to our interconnected global economy.

That is why, if you're designing a new carpark – or upgrading an existing facility – you will need to consider adding the latest contactless and touchless technology that can help minimise the potential spread of viruses.

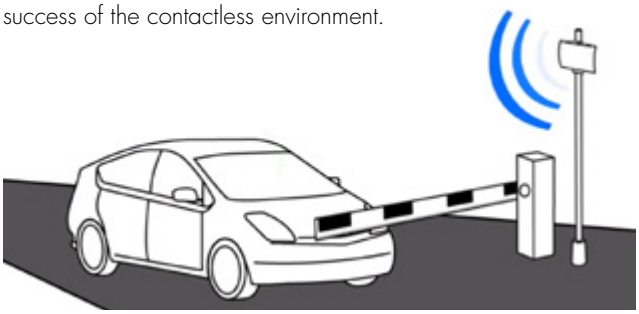
As touchless and contactless technology becomes more widespread, consumers will begin to actively seek out businesses that offer this safer and more health-conscious option for parking.

Here are five of the most recent hygiene technologies to consider when upgrading or designing a new carpark to meet the needs of today's contactless society.

1 Contactless vehicle entry

Utilising Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) technology can avoid the need for drivers to push a button to receive a ticket. Once the system's cameras recognise a licence plate, it will automatically produce a ticket with no need to touch the machine. The same system allows a smooth exit by raising the boom gate when the driver has paid for parking.

LPR technology can also be integrated with third party carpark booking platforms. Patrons can reserve a car space online with their number plate and then enter the parking facility seamlessly thanks to LPR cameras. A carpark management system that will integrate with a variety of parking requirements is integral to the success of the contactless environment.



In buildings with a card holder system, swipe cards or contactless readers with seamless integration or long range RFID readers that will automatically open the gate, again with no contact for the customer.

2 Upgrading the carpark payment system

Installing touchless technology in high contact areas is an effective way to minimise the spread of viruses through cross-contamination. Historically, one of the highest traffic contact points has been at the point of payment.

Rather than equipping carpark personnel with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as face shields, masks, and gloves (which can appear confronting), it may be a better option to do away with cash as a payment option altogether.

Tickets with 2D thermal printer barcodes can be scanned without the need to physically insert a ticket.
Not only does this provide long term lower maintenance costs with minimal moving components, this technology also gives you the option of offering touchless and contactless parking discounts. Retail employees won't need to touch parking tickets – pre-programmed scanners can also offer the discount contact-free.

2D printed barcode tickets can be paid or discounted with a touchless scanner that incorporates payment solutions such as credit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and other modern payment systems, avoiding exposure to cash and change.

LPR cameras can also be linked to discounted tickets and readily adapted to phone payment systems as part of the effort to remove the ability (and risk) of paying with cash.

3 Lifts, doorways and pedestrian access points

High pedestrian traffic areas such as doors, lifts and other vertical transportation systems present an obvious 'hot spot' for potential contamination.

To avoid this, anti-microbial film wrap can be installed onto buttons to offer a solution that is 99.9% free of bacteria and viruses. These wraps must be regularly replaced to ensure their effectiveness.

Motion driven sensors can automatically open doors to avoid the need to press buttons. Along with voice activation technology, this offers a contactless way for the new modern era of controlling vertical transportation.

4 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging bays

As electric vehicles become more widespread, the need for contactless charging systems will also increase. Wireless charging systems are available in some parts of the globe as a safer non-contact option.

Alternatively, a hygiene program can be initiated with cleaning procedures on the plug and charge options to more frequently disinfect areas of common use. This regular disinfection, especially during times of high use, can help to mitigate the spread of viruses.

5 Automatic hand sanitisation stations

Installing touchless automatic hand sanitising dispenser stations in common areas (such as at elevators and entrances/exits) can help mitigate cross-infection.

Dispensers can be connected via a PLC control that gathers data on how often they are used, the current remaining volume of sanitizer gel, and sends an alert when the individual unit needs refilling. To avoid abuse they are also set up so that the unit won't continuously dispense sanitiser when a hand is maliciously held under the unit.

Find out more about the latest carpark hygiene systems

In the post-pandemic world, consumers will increasingly seek out carpark operations, retail shopping environments, and commercial locations that work to minimise the potential impacts of viruses. Your asset, property or carpark can meet this need by installing modern touchless and contactless technologies.

To find out more about the latest carpark hygiene technology, contact PARCsafe to arrange a new online or face-to-face consultation on **1300 987 645** or visit **parcsafe.com.au**