

CASE STUDY



Fellowes Air Purifiers and the Tampa Bay Lightning: A winning combination

Commercial-grade air purifiers installed at AMALIE Arena to remove viruses and germs from indoor air



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*Mike O'Donnell
Vinik Sports Group Senior
Director of Planning & Projects*

Winning a Stanley Cup during the modern National Hockey League (NHL) era is difficult. Winning it in back-to-back fashion is that much harder. That's a feat only achieved by 10 teams. But winning back-to-back championships during a worldwide pandemic? That takes determination, focus and an increased attention to health care and virus-free surroundings.

That's the situation the Tampa Bay Lightning of the NHL found itself in during the 2021 season after winning Lord Stanley's cup in the 2020 season. With player and personnel health of tantamount concern, AMALIE Arena—home to the Lightning—sought to reduce airborne contaminants like SARS-CoV-2[†], the virus that causes COVID-19. Given that Fellowes AeraMax Pro commercial-grade air purifiers have been proven in studies to virtually eliminate the virus from indoor air, Vinik Sports Group, which owns the Lightning and manages the arena, worked to outfit rooms with the units prior to the 2021 Stanley Cup Finals.[†]

Because of the arena's expansive bowl-like design, it would be difficult to outfit its entirety with Fellowes units, so Vinik staff chose to focus on high-contact enclosed areas like locker rooms and conference rooms, to the benefit of players and team personnel. The staff contracted with a service to install a combination of AeraMax Pro AM3 and AM4 freestanding and wall units. As a bonus, AeraMax Pro units were installed in Artist Green Rooms and Warm-up Areas, so touring musical artists could enjoy contaminant-free air prior to and after concert performances.



Fellowes commercial-grade air purifiers feature a unique four-stage H13 True HEPA filtration system that effectively and efficiently removes airborne contaminants, like pollen, dust, pet dander, and smoke, from enclosed spaces. What's more, testing conducted by researchers at the University of Genoa in Genoa, Italy showed that Fellowes air purifiers removed 99.9999% of aerosolized SARS-CoV-2 in controlled laboratory conditions, neutralizing the viral load.

"In response to COVID-19, we wanted to ensure our tenants and staff at AMALIE Arena that we are taking every precaution mechanically to ensure artist, player and staff safety in the back of house," said Mike O'Donnell, Vinik Sports Group Senior Director of Planning & Projects. "While we've worked hard to become both a WELL Health-Safety and GBAC Star Certified Facility, we wanted to go above and beyond the increased filtration and bipolar ionization already implemented at the air handlers. One way we are doing that is through the installation of AeraMax units throughout the back of house, in all smaller spaces that may have multiple occupants."

The purchase and installation of the AeraMax Pro units is a permanent solution to the threat of viruses and germs in these areas; Fellowes air purifiers feature patented EnviroSmart™ with PureView™ Technology. EnviroSmart assists in the machine's ability to effectively and efficiently clean the air based on room conditions. Units activate by motion, sound and odor, and their dual laser particle sensors measure ultra-fine particles, adjusting the performance automatically. Intuitively, air quality measurements are communicated through the PureView screen, visually displaying the air quality in real time.

Because each unit has a large digital display, occupants can actually see the cleaning progress. So, the units make people feel better in two ways: they feel better physically through cleaner, fresher air, and they feel better emotionally because they see the cleaning process.

"The AeraMax units assist in providing visual comfort as their HEPA filtration can be seen working in the spaces through its digital screen, which displays exactly how clean the air is within each space," O'Donnell said.

AMALIE Arena joins the AT&T Arena in San Antonio, Texas and Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois as well as countless hospitality venues, businesses and health care institutions in acknowledging Fellowes AeraMax Pro air purifiers as an effective and efficient way of maintaining occupant health.

†Fellowes AeraMax Pro AM3 & AM4 air purifiers demonstrated, through independent laboratory testing, to be effective in eliminating aerosolized concentration of SARS-CoV-2 by 99.9999% through a single air pass test of the purifier. In addition, AeraMax Pro air purifiers reached 99.99% airborne reduction of a surrogate Human Coronavirus 229E in a 20m3 test chamber within 1 hour of operation in a separate test.

