

Sheridan correctional institution builds security, accountability with Spacesaver.



An art rack system stores all inmate manufacturing tools in a secure area.

Pegboards with tool silhouettes ensure accountability for every item.

The Federal Corrections Institution, Sheridan, OR, wanted to build the most up-to-date showplace of correctional institutions, and it accomplished this—using 15 Spacesaver systems throughout its complex—largely due to the efforts of a very satisfied customer.

As a result of Spacesaver storage, Sheridan's level three medium security center designed for 500 inmates can accommodate up to 750, and its level one minimum security camp for 250 can board up to twice that number. With jail overcrowding widespread and new institutions often rapidly filled to capacity, this population flexibility as a result of the installations is a significant benefit.

Walt Bunselmeyer, who served on the facility's construction task force, had previously installed Spacesaver in a California institution, and was very happy with its performance. He had been transferred and assigned to the Sheridan facility, and his zeal became the driving force behind its mobile storage installations. He invited the local Oregon representative out to the site and claimed that if he could get Spacesaver into his own department, he could guarantee another dozen systems in the complex.

Even before the institution's construction was complete, under GSA contract, several systems had been planned into Bunselmeyer's healthcare division. His goal was to create efficiency, to best utilize space, and to maximize the construction budget. Since the FCI became totally convinced of mobile storage, cost justification was not an issue. Subsequently, he introduced the idea of Spacesaver to other division heads who had not been exposed to the mobile concept and they too embraced the product. Bunselmeyer's enthusiasm radiated throughout the organization, and the facility's officers took ownership of the concept and pride in the installations.

Anti-tip devices in rails were used throughout the facility to maintain the integrity of shelving, so that shelves could not be tipped and their contents accessed. A diverse array of Spacesaver systems—manual, mechanical assist and electric, including pallet rack systems—was used in the various divisions.

Two of Sheridan's departments prominently feature the Spacesaver installations: the healthcare division and the factory.

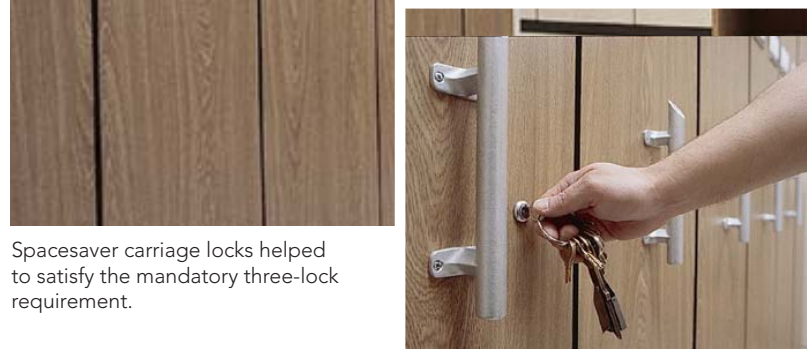
The tool crib, which is located behind a secured cage, stores all manufacturing tools used by Sheridan residents. Customarily this room is outfitted with open shelves, which create potential problems for visual security. Since any tool can become a potential weapon, security and accountability are paramount and cannot be compromised. If any tool is not accounted for at day's closing, the facility goes into shut down—a high security alert. The open shelving concept was replaced with a Spacesaver mobile art rack system with pegboards. Each tool is assigned a location on the pegboard and outlined with paint for easy visual identification when an item is missing. For item tracking, an inmate identification tag replaces the tool on the pegboard when an item is checked out.

Healthcare features several systems, including those in X-ray, administration, and one in the dispensary of the inpatient pharmacy, which is behind a security window and backed by individually locking carriages and steel-locked doors. The Spacesaver programmable electric system not only improved the security of the area, but also satisfied three-key lock requirements, mandated in certain areas, including evidence and weapons storage.

Many other departments throughout the facility specified high-density mobile storage, including the receiving and discharge area for inmate property, the dead file area of inmate systems management, and the law library where its use permitted the addition of work tables.

Other applications are found in the medical/dental area, administrative offices, records storage, and storage of files, linens, uniforms, books, supplies, film and media equipment, food, and personal effects.

The FCI project received wide publicity surrounding its design. The governor, federal Bureau of Corrections officials from Washington, D.C., and other dignitaries came to visit Sheridan for the open house. In the months that followed the Oregon representative was bombarded with calls of interest from all over the nation, which he turned over to local area contractors.



Spacesaver carriage locks helped to satisfy the mandatory three-lock requirement.



A manual system stores medical/dental records efficiently.



The law library saved enough space to fit inmate work tables.