

## Case Study: Skirball Cultural Center



Counter-mounted manual liquid soap dispenser and outdated faucet before renovations

B-8281 SureFlo® Foam Soap Dispensers and B-8878 Designer Series Automatic Faucets after renovations

### PROJECT DETAILS

**Location:**

Los Angeles, CA

**Architect:**

Moshe Safdie

**Accessories:**

B-8281 SureFlo®  
Automatic Top-Fill  
Bulk Foam Soap Dispenser

B-8878 Designer Series  
Automatic Faucet

## Retrofit Perfection

*Skirball Cultural Center exhibits the ideal upgrade for touchless soap dispensing.*

After an 18-month pandemic-related closure, the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles embarked upon a restroom renovation project to provide patrons with a totally touchless handwashing experience before re-opening its doors.

To maintain the Center’s current aesthetic and complete the project as quickly and efficiently as possible, the facility management staff decided simply to replace the existing counter-mounted manual liquid soap dispensers and outdated faucets. Fortunately, Bobrick had the perfect solution to fill the empty spaces — the B-8281 SureFlo® Automatic Top-Fill Bulk Foam Soap Dispenser and B-8878 Designer Series Automatic Faucet with cover plate.

The B-8281 SureFlo soap dispensers fit the industry standard 1" diameter mounting holes left in the countertops by the old manual dispensers, making replacement almost effortless. Skirball engineer Alex Gaebel was able to replace the manual liquid soap dispensers with 73 SureFlo Automatic Foam Soap Dispensers without any additional drilling into the existing countertops.

“I just pulled the old one out and dropped the new one right in,” Gaebel said. “The B-8281 had a big enough footprint that it covered the existing hole completely.”

Once they were installed, Gaebel reported that Bobrick’s SureFlo Soap Dispenser is as easy to use as it was to install. The precise lens on the electronic activation system eliminates technical issues commonly found in other automatic accessories because it filters LED light and always activates on the first attempt.



Photo by John Ellis Photo and Glass Eye Productions, courtesy of Skirball Cultural Center



“They’re the best sensor I have ever used,” Gaebel said. “Easy to activate, no searching for the ‘sweet spot’ required, and very responsive. They’re immediate!”

### LESS LABOR, MORE LATHER

In addition to the quick and easy installation, Skirball expects the update to the SureFlo Foam Soap Dispensers to reduce ongoing maintenance by 20% or more since the top-fill function allows staff to replenish the soap supply without crawling under the countertops.

Gaebel trained the rest of the Skirball staff himself on opening the single-directional locking cover for top-filling the soap. “The straightforward method of opening the unit from the top makes it very easy to fill and clean,” said Gaebel.

Along with the labor efficiency the Skirball staff enjoys with the new dispensers, the SureFlo Foam Soap Dispenser is expected to reduce the facility’s overall soap costs because the lathery foam soap dispensed provides better hand coverage and less soap waste than liquid soap that falls off into the sink. Skirball has seen firsthand their patrons experience a hygienic hand wash without needing to return for a second or third pump of soap like they did in the past.

### AN IDEAL AESTHETIC

To complement the SureFlo Soap Dispensers — and cover the other holes left by the old faucets — Skirball staff installed 62 B-8878 Designer Series Automatic Faucets. Like the SureFlo Soap Dispenser, the Designer Series Faucet was designed for easy installation, even in retrofit situations like the Skirball where a three-hole faucet was previously used. A matching cover plate completely concealed the original set of holes and provided a clean, stylish finished appearance.

Because the Skirball is very concerned about maintaining its aesthetic values, Skirball Vice President of Operations Ben Elisondo said he appreciates the Designer Series faucet’s high-quality construction and sleek, modern design, which pairs nicely with the SureFlo Soap Dispenser and complements the rest of the facility’s appearance.

“The high quality is evident,” Elisondo said. “And because it won’t corrode or wear out, it supports our aesthetic values.”

Today, the Skirball Cultural Center has fully reopened to the public, and facility management is pleased with the updates and confident that patron health and hygiene needs are being met. While at first replacing the manual soap dispensers and outdated faucets posed a challenge to the staff when they wanted to provide contactless handwashing, Bobrick had the solution. The B-8281 SureFlo Automatic Top-Fill Bulk Foam Soap Dispensers and complementary B-8878 Designer Series Automatic Faucets with cover plate were the perfect fit for their renovation — both literally and aesthetically.



### A SIMPLE SWAP

No drilling necessary. The new B-8281 SureFlo Automatic Top-Fill Bulk Foam Soap Dispenser design has a 1" diameter stem for easy retrofit into a 1" counter hole, significantly reducing installation cost and time.

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