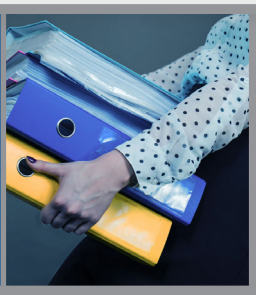
CAMDEN DOOR CONTROLS

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT NO-TOUCH & LOW-TOUCH SECURITY SOLUTIONS

There's **a new reality redefining the access control and automatic door market** and it can be summed up in two words - no-touch and low-touch. This unanticipated demand is a byproduct of the COVID-19 pandemic and the sudden need to provide access solutions that **eliminate having to manually touch a surface** in order to enter or exit the door.







Always resilient in meeting new challenges, the security industry has responded to the call.



Reducing Physical Contact at Entry Points

One is to install 'low touch' door hardware or activation devices such as 36" tall push plate switches that can be operated by another body part, such as an arm or a foot. Camden's CM-7536SS Column™ 36" tall push plate switches are easily activated by hand, body or foot. They're also designed to take the place of two high/low switches, when required by state and provincial building codes. Another option is to install a no-touch door activation device that relies on some form of wireless authentication, such as a prox or Bluetooth reader. Another is to simply employ a sensor, such as a touchless switch, that can detect if a person is present in front of the door.

Some examples of these are an active infrared touchless sensor switch that emits a light and detects changes in the reflection. It requires only **low power and doesn't penetrate walls**. A microwave switch emits microwave and detects motion at a longer range very quickly. And, passive infrared (PIR) detectors rely on changes in infrared energy for detection. Personal access devices include: Secure cards and tags; Wireless 1, 2 or 4 button fobs; RFID transponders, and Bluetooth devices, such as a smart phone.

Vertical Markets That Benefit Most from Touchless Solutions

Benefits of no-touch and low-touch access solutions offer benefits that extend beyond COVID compliance. They're also in keeping with **ADA requirements** and provide a service to persons with disabilities and improved convenience to users, in general. Consequently, there are few building occupancies that would not benefit from low touch and no touch solutions. However, there are certain environments where these offerings can have **the greatest positive impact**. These include facilities that serve most at risk people, such as hospitals, clinics, long term healthcare, and retirement homes. Additionally, facilities that serve large groups of people, such as schools, universities, transportation hubs and commercial high-rise buildings where there are common points of germ transmission by hands, also stand to benefit.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR TOUCHLESS DOOR CONTROL

IMPROVE CONVENIENCE, ELIMINATE GERMS, ENHANCE ADA COMPLIANCE

Touchless Wave.com™

Considerations from the Installers Perspective

Camden, along with other manufacturers, are offering **touchless products with a life cycle equal to mechanical switches**. And, keep in mind, they undergo a lot less wear and tear because of the lack of physical contact. Sensor devices are, however, subject to environmental factors that you don't need to be considered when installing a manual switch. A key factor to keep in mind is that these are powered electronic devices and can be subject to unregulated power spikes and EMI noise. The need for maintenance is also an important consideration when selecting battery powered touchless switches. You can get **up to 4 years of battery life using AA lithium batteries**, but you still need a service plan for this. Luckily, there are both battery powered and line powered wireless switches on the market.

There are instances, though, when installing touchless is not ideal. These include places where they're not allowed by code, as well in locations where wireless technology can be affected by environmental factors.

Active infrared touchless switch sensors, for example, can false activate due to direct exposure to snow, so they need to be installed under a building soffit. Key point to keep in mind - **you can't assume that one solution works in all applications**.

Installing Touchless on a Budget



There can be some significant price differences between devices using different technologies. Microwave touchless devices, for instance, are much more expensive than infrared devices. Conversely, there can also be big price differences between device models using the same technology. We're currently seeing a big difference between 'Dumb' touchless switches that only offer basic 'wave to open' functionality and 'Smart' switches that have REX sensor input, built in door control logic, and multiple relay or channel outputs. Installers should also bear in mind that the labor to install a device usually costs more than the device itself. Choose the model that does the job and gets you off the job as quickly. **Match the options below to your specific application:**

- Line powered or battery powered?
- Hardwired vs. wireless?
- Surface mount/flush mount?
- Narrow, 1 or 2 gang faceplate?
- Will built in logic control or 2nd relay avoid the cost of a separate door control relay?

And, for installers who work in Canada and the northern U.S., touchless devices can be used outdoors and operate on lithium batteries.

Touchless Retrofits Made Easy



Camden has worked very hard to make changing manual push buttons to touchless switches super easy. Firstly, Camden offers a battery powered switch with a hardwired relay that allows the installer to change the switch in just a few seconds. If you'd like to avoid battery maintenance, you can power the switch using the two existing single wires and then plug a wireless transmitter into the switch to activate the automatic door operator wirelessly. Another part of making retrofit easy is making it easy to reuse an existing surface mount box. Mechanical push buttons and push plate switches usually have a box that is the wrong shape or does not have enough depth to accept a touchless switch. We are introducing the **widest range of mounting box conversion kits** available in the industry.

What To Do When Wireless is Not an Option

For those installs where wireless simply isn't possible, **low touch switches and door hardware can be used**. In addition, copper coatings and anti-microbial coatings can reduce the amount of time a virus and germs can live on a surface.

The Future of Touchless Solutions

The industry has seen manufacturers launching new touchless solutions at a tremendous rate. In the last six months, Camden has launched a new line of affordable touchless switches as well as new, low-touch and no-touch barrier-free restroom control systems. We also have a number of very exciting new switch designs in the pipeline. We at Camden believe that we are still in the early adopter stage of no-touch product solutions. Among other things, this means that there is a tremendous opportunity for installers to establish 'best practices' in project applications and product selection and manufacturers to use new technologies to radically change the access control and the automatic door market. Camden remains ever committed to delivering **industry-leading access control, door activation and locking solutions** that meet the ever-changing demands of our times.



David Price, Vice President, Communications and Corporate Development, joined Camden Door Controls in 2010. He has played an instrumental role in the company's rapid growth as an industry-leading provider of innovative and competitively priced door activation, control and locking products.

Camden Door Controls *Opening Doors to Innovation, Quality and Support!*

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