



CASE STUDY | HEALTHCARE

Project:

Clinic in a Can

Location:

Wichita, Kansas

Designer / Architect:

RAW Architecture

Contractor:

Star Commercial Flooring
Clinic in a Can

Armstrong Flooring:

Medintech® with Diamond 10® Technology

Featured skus:

84390



Clinic in a Can, Providing a Lot of Care in a Little Space

Versatile healthcare clinic relies on Medintech® Sheet to deliver care around the world.

It began as a side project, like so many great ideas often do. Born out of first-hand experiences, Michael Wawrzewski saw a need for affordable and relocatable healthcare during numerous trips to Central America, Africa, and throughout the United States. A physician's assistant for 25 years, Wawrzewski began planning and tinkering with ideas to meet this overwhelming need. Over the course of two decades, Clinic in a Can slowly took the shape that it is today — a medical clinic in a shipping container.

Clinic in a Can provides economical, ready-to-use medical clinics that are versatile enough to function in various situations throughout the world. As a true turn-key solution, these clinics are ready to be used within minutes upon arrival while providing the necessary equipment and design to safely administer care.

"I saw a specific need in these visits around the country and to developing nations," said Wawrzewski, owner of Clinic in a Can. "From underprivileged areas to disaster relief, there's a real need for quality care without a lot of investment or upkeep. That's been the driving force behind developing Clinic in a Can to what it is today, and how we can make a small difference in this world."

Developing Clinic in a Can

Clinic in a Can began to take shape when Wawrzewski and team sent its first iteration to Jefferson Parish, Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A donated over-the-road trailer was outfitted to administer medical care, and it was sent back to Clinic in a Can once its services were no longer needed.

It wasn't until Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010 that Clinic in a Can truly began to take its current form. By using shipping containers, shipping costs were more consistent and affordable compared to previous versions, and more readily available.

"After Haiti's earthquake, we really saw the true need for secure facilities, food, and water," Wawrzewski said. "We worked to send two 40-foot containers, and that really launched the framework of what our units look like today."

Shipping containers are readily available, explained Wawrzewski. It's common to source one-use shipping containers that carried a shipment of product to the United States, but are sitting empty with no plans to return the favor.



“We began outfitting these containers with medical equipment and designing them to be as efficient as possible,” Wawrzewski said.

“Using containers offers much better safety and security than a tent environment, and its durability allows a lot of flexibility in design.”

Containers can be configured as a primary care unit, critical care unit, surgical suite, trauma/emergency unit, dental suite, or most any other medical space as needed.

“We looked to hospital design to mimic those spaces, and that’s how we decided on using Armstrong Flooring,” Wawrzewski said. “It’s tried and true, and an industry standard.”

Built to Last

Wawrzewski’s clinics are used all over the world, in varying climates and economical situations. For so many reasons, it’s vital that these units are built to last via quality construction and sourcing exceptional products. Clinic in a Can uses **Medintech® homogeneous sheet flooring** in all of its units, and Wawrzewski and his team install the product themselves, all the way down to welding the seams.

“Over a 5-year span we went from using an epoxy flooring, to tile, to eventually sheet flooring,” Wawrzewski said. “We knew to make these units a long-term solution, we had to install true sheet flooring that’s used in hospitals. After doing research, it didn’t take long to land on Armstrong Flooring. It’s used in the hospitals I work in, and all our research pointed to Armstrong Flooring being the long-term solution.”

The World Health Organization currently does not have standards for these types of units. Instead, Wawrzewski and his team build the clinics to American Hospital Association standards, and aim to set the worldwide standards for these care units. “We’ve had people

from the World Health Organization out to look at our clinics, and we want to encourage that the standards require the best supplies,” Wawrzewski said. “We don’t oversell what we manufacture. We tell clients that if these units are taken care of, they can last 30 years. We truly believe that, and we can only accomplish that by using the best products. Whether it’s the solar panels that power the whole unit or the flooring, it needs to be absolute quality. That’s why we choose Armstrong Flooring.”

Clinic in a Can’s business is a mix of permanent sales, like setting up hospital clinics in the Bahamas, or leasing units on a temporary basis for disaster relief. Most recently, Wawrzewski’s team has seen a large spike in leasing demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. There will always be a need for Clinic in a Can, and its versatility to provide safe and quality care to those who need it. That’s what keeps Wawrzewski driven to move Clinic in a Can forward on top of his full-time job as a physician’s assistant.

“It’s rewarding, to work with patients in-person and then come to Clinic in a Can to put together solutions that will be in the hands of practitioners worldwide,” Wawrzewski said. “By creating the container clinics we’re providing a cornerstone to help people. That’s a passion in my life, and using Clinic in a Can to do that is incredibly rewarding.”

- Michael Wawrzewski, Owner of Clinic in a Can