



Portable Sanitation Association International

Renting Portable Restrooms

Finding portable restroom providers and learning the right questions to ask can be challenging if you are not familiar with the portable sanitation industry. The Portable Sanitation Association International (PSAI) is here to help!



If you are in charge of renting portable restrooms for a special event or outdoor venue, then health, safety, comfort and convenience are top priorities!

Not sure what to order or what questions to ask your portable restroom operator (PRO)? Here is a checklist of areas to gather information as part of your planning. When you talk with your PRO, share what you want people to experience and the details of your event. Your PRO will help ensure you have the right number and type of restrooms to meet your goals and give everyone a good impression.

- Type of event and traffic flow.** Different kinds of events require different services. For example, a relay will require more units than a come-and-go art fair. At a relay nearly everyone wants to use the restroom at the same time, and that is not always true of other events. You may want nicer options for your wedding than for your construction site. PROs can discuss these things with you and help you evaluate the options.
- Number of attendees and duration of the event.** More people and longer events generally mean you need more units. Your PRO will be able to draw upon industry standards in making recommendations regarding how many units and cleaning/pumping services are recommended. If you expect a high ratio of women to men, extra units will cut down on the time your guests wait in line. This allows them to spend more time enjoying themselves (or spending money!) at your event.
- Outside temperature.** On warmer days, users will take in more liquids and make more trips to the lavatories. You will want to keep this in mind as you consider the number of units and the cleaning schedule you will support.
- Food and beverage availability.** Units that are placed on sites where users will be consuming a lot of food and beverages will typically be used more than average. Organizers of these events will want to discuss the menu and food/beverage schedule with their PROs to make sure there are enough units for peak times. If alcohol is served at your event you should plan for more units.
- Special needs.** If your users will include families with small children, be ready to consider units with diaper changing tables and child-sized toilet seats. If the event is likely to include a lot of seniors or people with physical challenges, accessibility and size of the units will be important considerations.
- Terrain and curbing.** Portable restrooms generally need to be placed on flat surfaces and are serviced by relatively large trucks which must be parked near the units. You will want to review your event's placement options and truck access routes with your PRO. If some of your units need to be handicap-accessible, curbing and ramps will also need to be a topic of conversation.

There are many factors to consider when planning the number of portable restroom units needed for your special event. Here is a guide when no pumping service is provided, and based on a 50/50 mix of men and women. If you are serving alcohol at your event, add 10-20 percent more units. Your PRO will help you determine what you need, set an optimal cleaning schedule, and if it is a public event - discuss how many ADA-compliant restrooms are required.

		Average Hours at the Event							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Average Crowd Size	500	2	4	4	5	6	7	9	9
	1,000	4	6	8	8	9	9	11	12
	2,000	5	6	9	12	14	16	18	20
	3,000	6	9	12	16	20	24	26	30
	4,000	8	13	16	22	25	30	35	40
	5,000	12	15	20	25	31	38	44	50
	10,000	15	25	38	50	63	75	88	100

For a more information: www.psal.org/public

Source: Independent Study by the Center of Business and Industrial Studies / University of Missouri-St. Louis

Successful planners take steps to avoid negative experiences for their guests.

Just like indoor restrooms - outdoor restrooms and wash stations need to be sanitized and cleaned at a pace that stays one step ahead of the "ick factor" that can accompany using a restroom that has not been properly serviced. More importantly, seasoned PROs take into account the health and safety of the users – and will do what it takes to provide a clean environment and a positive experience.

The good news for you is that PSIA Member PROs follow industry standards related to repair, placement, cleaning – and even the number of restrooms available. Reputable companies discuss all of this with this with you. Don't be surprised if they are reluctant to reduce or cut back from their recommendations – even if you want to cut costs. Why? Because they are experts, and they know a positive restroom experience is a "must" for the public. Your reputation and theirs depends on it!



Portable restrooms come in models that flush and deodorize!

In addition to traditional portable restrooms, today there are a variety of options from which event organizers can choose. There are portable units that flush and others that come on trailers so well appointed they have marble and porcelain fixtures, built-in fragrance units, and other fancy options. Typically these cost more, but the experience of using one of these toilets is no different than using the restroom at a fancy hotel. These units are very popular for events like weddings and outdoor gatherings where VIPs are present. Be sure to ask your PRO about availability in your area.



Did you know one third of the world's population does not have access to proper sanitation? That means one in three individuals defecate in the open, using whatever means available. Lack of adequate sanitation causes privacy, safety and health issues. Inadequate sanitation often leads to the contamination of water

supplies and negates the advantages of pouring of billions of dollars in aid into poor countries – and the situation is getting worse not better. Where water and sanitation are scarce, portable restrooms provide the local population with their first-ever toilets. In places like these, portable sanitation not only provides safety and dignity, it saves lives.



Every day, portable restrooms save 125 million gallons of fresh water!



For more water-saving facts and information about portable restrooms, visit www.psa.org/public.

Our vision is a world in which clean and safe sanitation is accessible to all.

Portable Sanitation Association International
2626 East 82nd Street, Suite 175 · Bloomington, Minnesota 55425 U.S.A. · 952.854.8300 · info@psai.org
www.PSAI.org