

Toilet & Handwash Maintenance

Tips for Sanitizing Handwashing Stations

WATER SUPPLY

Source: The water used for handwash must be from a known potable source. It should be from a municipal water system or tested private water system to assure that is potable (drinkable) water.

Hoses: The hoses used to transfer the water from the faucet to the transport tank must be clean and dedicated to only being used for this purpose. You should start with a new hose, use it only to fill your transport tank and cap the ends to prevent contamination. The hose should be regularly sanitized using a 10% household bleach and water solution flushed through the hose. A separate, dedicated, clean hose should be used to transfer the water into the handwash. The same procedures as above should be used to assure this hose is kept clean. Between uses, the hose ends must be covered to prevent contamination.

Transport Tank: Water for handwash should only be transported in a clean tank. This tank must be rated for transporting potable water and be either stainless steel, NSF or FDA rated coated metal tank, coated fiberglass tank or molded plastic tank.

Sanitizing:

Transport Tank - The tank used to transport handwash water should be regularly sanitized using a 10% household bleach and water solution. Pour the bleach in the tank and add water until nearly full. Move the vehicle sufficiently to slosh the bleach/water solution around. Leave solution in tank for one hour. Rinse thoroughly with fresh clean water.

Handwash Unit - In order to sanitize the water in the handwash add approximately 11 drops of household liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water. This will provide approximately 5 parts per million (ppm) of free chlorine. Levels of 5-10 ppm should kill most microorganisms in the water. At 11 ppm you will begin to smell the chlorine in the water. The best way to maintain the appropriate level is to test the residual chlorine level in the handwash with chlorine test strips (these can be purchased at any pool or spa supply store).

PLEASE NOTE: Adding bleach may have a negative impact on both the color and performance of most toilet deodorizers.

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HANDWASH UNIT

In the Company Yard

- The handwash fresh water tank (if accessible) should be cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis with a disinfectant soap to remove any dirt, mold or other debris. Rinse thoroughly with clean fresh water to remove all soap residues.
- Wash all of the outside surfaces, including the basin
- Fill fresh water compartment with a 10% bleach/water solution
- Pump at least one quart (20 pump strokes) of the bleach water solution through each of the pumps on the handwash unit. Leave bleach water solution in handwash unit for at least one hour.
- Drain fresh tank
- Refill fresh water tank with clean fresh water to rinse out bleach/water solution and drain

At a Special Event

- Suction out waste water
- Wash all of the outside surfaces, including the basin

On a Service Route

- Suction out waste water
- Inspect fresh and waste compartment for algae, mold etc. If there is a buildup return to yard for full cleaning

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Cleaning Equipment:

- Brushes, buckets, towels and pumping wand must be dedicated for use only to clean handwash stations. They should not be used to clean toilets or anything else. Towels should only be used to clean one handwash unit before laundering to avoid cross contamination.
- These towels should be washed and dried in a dedicated washer and dryer. DO NOT wash or dry in appliances that are used for towels used in toilets or other products.

Handwash Condition:

At ever service check the condition of the entire handwash unit to assure that there is no damage, cracks in hoses etc. that could allow any contamination to get into the fresh water supply. Replace any damaged components before placing the handwash unit.

Warning! Bleach should not be mixed with other household cleaners, especially those containing ammonia, because an extremely deadly chlorine gas can form.

A final reminder; always place warning labels on handwashing stations that clearly state "DO NOT DRINK." Prevention is the best medicine as they say, and a simple warning can prevent countless health problems and litigation that may arise from impure or contaminated water.

As other states adopt handwashing regulations, operators and manufactures within the portable restroom industry will experience changes in business. At Satellite, creating sanitary systems to prevent the spread of harmful diseases obviously contributed greatly to the formation of our company. With this new turn of events, our responsibility to provide safe, clean water is understood and we will remain a world leader in disease prevention and protecting the environment.

FINAL NOTES: To receive a copy of the information listed above for posting at your company, call a Satellite customer service representative and a copy will be mailed to you. Further information is available at the PSAI web site by visiting www.psa.org or contacting Bill Carrol at 800-822-3020.