

## **July 4<sup>th</sup> Event Planning:**

*Why the last thing you think of is the most important*

You've made your guest list and menu and the invitations have been sent. You've bought all the supplies you will need, have music for your attendees and sparklers for the kids. It is July 1<sup>st</sup> with only 3 days to go until your annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July party. This is the moment you realize that every box on your list has been checked except for the last: portable restroom.

Most people planning an event leave the portable restroom to last or do not include it at all. This oversight can be the difference between a great event and an unfavorable situation. Whether a small party at home, or a large outdoor picnic, a 'sanitation plan' should be part of the preparation. For homes with septic, the strain placed on your system during a party can reach a critical level. What this may mean is that at some point during the event, the septic system overflows which is generally followed by an abrupt end to the party.

Even if the home is hooked up to the public system, accessibility and the number of restrooms available to guests becomes a factor. Adding a clean and comfortable portable restroom sets the stage for the event. Portable restrooms come in many shapes, sizes and types. There are luxury units available that include many of the same amenities and little details found in a standard home bathroom.

For larger outdoor locations like parks and picnic areas, there is a chance that the restrooms located on site may be a good distance away. Additionally, they will most likely be shared by other visitors using the public park space as well. The added feature of a 'private' restroom and accessibility will be welcomed by guests, not to mention that cleanliness can sometimes be an issue in public restrooms.

For any outdoor event, a portable restroom is much more than a luxury item; it can be the added feature which makes all the time and effort spent planning worth it. When selecting a provider for such a sensitive and critical need, it is important to base your decision on reputation and experience. While it is easy to think that all providers are the same, the opposite is true. What goes in to preparing a unit for delivery and the service guarantee and commitment behind it should be determining factors in selecting a provider. Be diligent in asking questions when selecting a provider:

How long have you been in the portable restroom business?

Do you have references?

What process does the portable restroom go through prior to being delivered?

What if there is a problem with the unit during my event?

What is your service guarantee?

These are a few of the important questions to ask when selecting a provider. Reputation, experience, preparation, service standards, and guarantee are the key factors in selecting a provider. Compromising in an area may mean a compromise in what may be the most important part of the event.