



Portable Restroom Glossary & Sanitation Terminology

This glossary explains common portable restroom and sanitation terms so you can plan with confidence and understand the options available for your event, job site, or emergency response.

Key Terms and Definitions

- **Standard Portable Restroom:** A self-contained portable toilet unit with seat, urinal, and holding tank.
- **VIP Portable Restroom:** An upgraded portable restroom with features such as foot-flush, handwash basin, and enhanced interior finishes.
- **ADA-Compliant Restroom:** A restroom unit or trailer designed to meet ADA requirements for accessibility, including ramped access and interior turning radius.
- **Accessible Restroom:** A larger, ground-level unit that improves access for mobility devices, but may not meet full ADA trailer specifications.
- **Restroom Trailer:** A tow-behind mobile restroom facility with multiple private stalls, sinks, lighting, and often heating and air conditioning.
- **Holding Tank:** A tank used to collect wastewater from office trailers, modular buildings, or other temporary facilities.
- **Pump-Out / Service:** The process of emptying holding tanks, cleaning restrooms, and restocking supplies.
- **Handwash Station:** A standalone sink unit with fresh water and soap for washing hands near restrooms or food areas.
- **Sanitizer Stand:** A stand or dispenser that provides alcohol-based hand sanitizer where water is not practical.
- **Service Frequency:** How often portable restrooms or holding tanks are pumped out and cleaned during a rental.
- **Base Camp (Film & Production):** The main staging area for film crews, where restrooms, trailers, catering, and support services are located.
- **Unit Move:** Relocating restrooms or trailers during multi-location events or film shoots.
- **Grey Water:** Wastewater from sinks and handwash stations that must be collected and disposed of properly.

- **Fresh Water Tank:** A dedicated tank that supplies clean water for flushing or handwashing when on-site water is not available.
- **Generator:** A portable power source used when site or venue power is insufficient or unavailable for restroom trailers.