



PROBLEM: Chopper pumps jammed on septage full of solids

SOLUTION: Macho Monster grinder

CONSULTANT: Trimate Industries

Monster Solutions

Strong Enough for the Barmy Army, a Macho Saves Port-A-Loo!

Auckland, NZ – It’s amazing what ends up inside a portable restroom—those ubiquitous plastic portable bathrooms you see at outdoor events and on construction sites everywhere. Personal items, wallets, rags, clothing and even cash all somehow get dropped into the toilet’s pit.

This balled up mass of trash and debris wreaks havoc on the septage haulers that pump out the toilets and move the wastewater to a designated disposal site. Particularly frustrating is when clothing or rags clog up a pump causing it to breakdown and sewage to back-up.

“Every time the pumps plugged up I would have to go unclog them,” said Peter Elliot, a branch manager for Port-a-Loo, New Zealand’s largest septage hauler. “Sometimes it was a daily exercise clearing those pumps. Rags and clothing in particular would wrap around the impeller tightly and were difficult to remove.”

Peter’s branch in Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand, was experiencing terrible problems with their on-site

wastewater pumps. Every day Porta-A-Loo’s seven tanker trucks pull up and unload a combined total of 7,000 gallons (28,000 liters) of wastewater into a wet well which is then pumped to the local sewer treatment plant.

The company needed to macerate the septage flow to protect the pumps and comply with local discharge requirements. Peter and his team invested in high end chopper pumps, but one after another the chopper pumps clogged up and burned out. Some lasted only 3 months, while the biggest chopper pumps lasted 6 months.



Macho Monster steps in where chopper pumps couldn’t.

“At this stage we turned to Trimate Industries (a local pump expert) for help,” said Peter. “They recommended the Muffin Monster®, something I had never heard of before. I always thought cutter pumps were going to do the job – until we realized we were going to need something much bigger.”

The Muffin Monster and its bigger brother the Macho Monster are incredibly powerful sewage grinders which have two banks of steel cutters that rotate inward, pulling solids in, cutting them into smaller particles, allowing the flow to carry them on to the pumps.



The ground up pieces easily flow through pumps and pipes. Over 20,000 Muffin Monsters are in service grinding sewage and sludge and protecting pumps inside lift stations, treatment plants and large buildings around the world.

An in-line version of the Macho Monster was installed above ground at the Port-a-Loo site where drivers can connect their discharge hose, turn on the grinder and unload in 8–10 minutes. They also use that time to wash the inside of their tankers.

“We’re not having the pump clogging issue at all anymore,” said Peter, who’s thrilled his daily routine no longer includes unwrapping rags and clothing from sewage pumps. “The drivers like it too – they don’t have to wait and they don’t have to muck around with the pumps.”

Recently the Macho Monster faced a tough challenge when Port-a-Loo handled portable restroom duties for Britain’s Lions Rugby team tour of New Zealand. Roughly 50,000 fans, nicknamed the Barmy Army, gathered at numerous sites for exhibition games and celebrations. Over 500 toilets were put in use and the tanker drivers

worked many hours to keep them clean. The Macho Monster didn’t hiccup once when the waste was off-loaded, grinding up everything and anything the Barmy Army left behind.

Did the Macho Monster save the company money? “Absolutely,” said Peter. “And it saved time as well. I think in the future our larger branches will also have to install a Macho Monster.”

Like many septage haulers, Port-A-Loo is experiencing solid growth and Peter expects the business to continue growing. The company has 1,500 units in Auckland and 3,500 units nationwide.

“We’re successful because we’re passionate about what we do,” he said. “I think the business is very much in its infancy and will continue to grow over time.”

It’s good to know the Macho Monster, Port-a-Loo and New Zealand survived the on-slaughter of the Barmy Army!

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Operators inspect the Macho Monster, which grinds solids and septage unloaded from their trucks.



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