

## Muffin Monsters Respond to 911 Dispatch Center Flooding

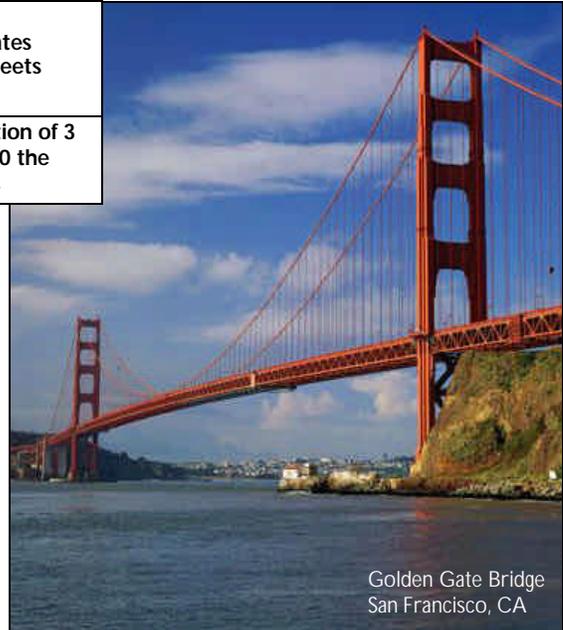
### San Francisco, CA --

A common disruption by inmates at the San Francisco Hall of Justice is to stuff toilet paper, clothing and even bed sheets down the toilets, blocking the flow of wastewater and ultimately flooding various sections of the city jail. The most memorable of these episodes of vandalism took place when the Hall's emergency 911 communications dispatch center was showered with untreated sewage water. Toilets in the jail's sixth-floor holding cells were stuffed with a variety of solids, causing the toilets to back up and sending several hundred gallons of sewage descending into the fourth-floor communications facility. While the smelly incident didn't shut down the critical emergency center, it did force police employees to wear protective clothing during work hours, and eventually cost the city more than \$200,000 in cleanup costs.

According to Hall of Justice Building Superintendent Rene Bura, this type of vandalism was occurring from 12 to 18 times a year in the jail, which houses anywhere from 800 to 1,000 inmates. To address this ongoing problem, the city of San Francisco has installed three Muffin Monster® grinders along three of the building's four-inch sewage lines. The Muffin Monsters are being used in-line to grind up the troublesome solids put down the toilets by inmates, thereby preventing further sewage backups and

**Problem:**  
Sewage flooding from inmates stuffing clothing and bed sheets down the toilets.

**Solution:** Since the installation of 3 in line Muffin Monster 30000 the problem has been eliminated.



Golden Gate Bridge  
San Francisco, CA



Deputy at  
San Francisco Hall  
of Justice

flooding.

"Just in the sixth-floor area, we have more than 24 toilets and a volume of maybe 6,000 gallons of water a day coming down those sewer lines," Bura says. "If you clog those lines, it's easy for the overflowing water to leak down to the lower floors. We are using the three Muffin Monsters as a type of backflow prevention system, basically to prevent the toilets from overflowing."

So far, says Bura, the Muffin Monsters have done the job, grinding up as wide a variety of solids as the inmates can get their hands on. Hall of Justice officials consider this use of the Muffin Monsters an experiment to judge their effectiveness. If they continue to perform well, it is likely additional Monsters will be installed along most of the sewage lines leading from the city jail, bringing the Hall of Justice in line with hundreds of other jails and prisons throughout the nation who use the Muffin Monster grinder.

If that's the case, Bura figures, it would virtually wipe out what has become a favorite inmate pastime at many correctional facilities. "They don't get vacations," he says, "so they need something to do with their time. They have plenty of time to sit around and think of things to stick down the toilets."

## Muffin Monsters Discourage Juvenile Delinquents

Nashville, TN --

Woodland Hills Youth Development Center in Nashville is one of the newest facilities of its kind in the country. It provides housing and vocational training for 144 delinquent youths. The center was designed to eliminate many of the costly maintenance problems that plague older facilities, but until two years ago the center's operations department was continually encountering an all too common problem - blockage of its sewage drain system.



Woodland Hills Youth Development Center  
Nashville, TN

Don Milliken, Facilities Manager, explained the problem. "They (the youths) are always stuffing sheets, shirts, shoes, you name it, down the toilets." Due to this disruptive behavior, the center's waste system would become backed up on a routine basis. "We were having to hire a pump truck to come out on an average of every ten days at a cost of \$300 to \$500 each time to remedy the problem," says Milliken. At this rate, it is easy to estimate how costly the problem was becoming.



The solution to the problem has proved to be the Muffin Monster sewage grinder, installed in July, 1992. The unit was recommended by John Pulk of Dickson/Pearson Associates, Inc., JWC Environmental's regional representative. The youth center's previous waste disposal system incorporated a gravity drain that fed into a pumping station at the city facility. An existing line was cut to install the Muffin Monster and, according to Pulk, the installation was accomplished with minimum disruption to service operations.

The Muffin Monster has been so successful in alleviating the problem according to Milliken, that they have not had any blockage problems since. "We haven't had to pull the pump once since its installation over a two years ago," says Milliken. The unit not only has saved his department hours of maintenance headaches, but major costs as well. "It paid for itself in less than a year. We are very pleased all around," he reports. He encourages similar institutions to consider incorporating Muffin Monsters when planning new construction.

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