

# "The Traveling Apprentice" Works for Glover's Septic Systems Inc. & Portable Toilets

I glanced at my watch and groaned: 4:30 in the morning. I reminded myself it was my own fault: I'd promised that the Traveling Apprentice would do anything, anywhere, anytime for an assignment. I knew I would have been less cavalier had I known that one morning I'd be heading out at oh-dawn-hundred in a pump truck belonging to Glover's Septic Systems, Inc. and Portable Toilet Rentals to pump out portable toilets at construction sites.

The pump truck held 500 gallons of waste as well as a separate water tank for cleaning the toilets. At the site I donned a pair of large rubber gloves and suctioned the wastewater from the potty using a vacuum hose connected to the pump tank. The hose was large and unwieldy, but the pump did the job efficiently, siphoning up to 60 gallons of waste from each unit. After the suctioning was complete I poured five gallons of fresh water into the reservoir and threw in a blue tablet which I was told helps neutralize odor. Next, I used clean water and a clean sponge to wipe down the walls of the unit, then the seat of the toilet. I dried the toilet seat (after all, who wants to sit on a wet seat!), then I checked to ensure the hand-sanitizer unit was filled and that there were two rolls of toilet paper. I verified the number of the unit for the call report and sprayed the unit with an air freshener.

On to the next unit.

After servicing the portable toilets we returned to home base and switched to a larger truck to pump out two septic systems in Lusby. The first tank contained grease (a no-no for a system) and we made a notation to send the new home owner information about proper use of a septic system. At the second

house the absentee owner had failed to mark the location of the clean-out trap and although the driver probed a number of logical places in the yard we failed to find the tank and had to abort the mission. Another note to another owner.

The last task was to drive to Appeal Waste Water and Landfill to dispose of the collected waste.

Marsha Glover, owner, had cautioned me about horrific odors but I can happily report I wasn't overwhelmed by odor on the assignment - - probably because the Glover truck was immaculate and the potties we cleaned were serviced on a regular basis.

Most of us would agree that we don't like using portable toilets and we'd probably also admit our septic system is seldom foremost in our mind - until it backs up. But when we're at that festival and desperate for a restroom or when there's sewage spreading across our yard - well, it's times like those when that that septic pump truck or that little metal outhouse and the people who maintain them are welcome sights, indeed.



*The Traveling Apprentice is a monthly column written by Carolyn McHugh, President/CEO of the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce. Each month Carolyn spends a day working for a Chamber member, then writes a column for a local newspaper about the experience. The article is later inserted into Chamber's newsletter and posted on the Chamber's web-site in order to give the maximum exposure to the Chamber member. Her commitment to Chamber members and to the readers is that she's there for Chamber members and that whatever they do in their daily job, she'll do, too.*