

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact
John O'Reilly
LNC Communications
815-469-9100
John@LNCmail.com

Saniflo Plumbing Proves to be a “Champ” In University of Arkansas Arena Luxury Suites

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS (AUGUST 11, 2008) — When the University of Arkansas decided to upgrade its 19,000-seat Bud Walton Arena with 12 new luxury suites, a problematic building configuration made it impractical to install conventional plumbing. That left the athletic department in a quandary.

Quality and dependability were paramount, since the high-end suites were designed to accommodate the school’s major donors. Each one had to be built to exacting standards, complete with wet bar and private restroom.



INSIDE ONE OF THE 12 LUXURY SUITES AT BUD WALTON ARENA:
INSTEAD OF CONVENTIONAL PLUMBING, THE WET BAR AND PRIVATE
RESTROOM USE SANIFLO ABOVE-FLOOR PLUMBING TECHNOLOGY

The problem was solved when SFA Saniflo above-floor plumbing technology was chosen for the complex job.

Six of the suites were to be built on each end of the Razorbacks’ basketball court. “The challenge is that the north side of the arena is built on grade, and the south side is built with a floor below it,” explains Senior Associate Athletic Director Jerry Pufall.

SANIFLO

1-800-571-8191 | www.saniflo.com

“For the south side, we could have done a traditional, core-drilled plumbing line through the floor and tied it into the existing sewer and water system.”

But that wasn’t an option on the arena’s north side, which would have required tearing out concrete. “We would have had to trench in the concourse, and there were concerns about structural integrity if we got into grade beams,” says Pufall, explaining that cutting into the beams could be risky and would have been cost-prohibitive.

“The contractor was telling us we would need a structural engineer,” he adds. “There were just red flags. This is our highest-level premium suite in our arena, so you don’t want to have a negative experience there.”

Enter GA Engineers, Inc., of Fayetteville, which researched the problem and recommended Saniflo macerating technology to resolve it. Unlike traditional plumbing, macerating systems work above ground, with no need for digging to install sewer lines. Saniflo presented the perfect answer, explains John Rodney (J. Rod) Barcenilla, P.E., Plumbing Department Manager for the firm. “There was no way to route the sanitary sewer. You’d have to tunnel all the way through the building, or hundreds of feet. That would be difficult, if not impossible.”

Pufall and his staff were unfamiliar with the alternative plumbing technology, so GA Engineers conducted a demonstration. “They did their homework, researched it and were very confident that it could be used in our application,” he says. “We really were impressed with what we saw. They put all kinds of things in the toilet to show us the



SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR JERRY PUFALL (CENTER), WITH J. ROD BARCINILLA OF GA ENGINEERS (LEFT) AND INSTALLER JASON GILMORE OF TRUE FLOW PLUMBING. “THE TECHNOLOGY WAS AMAZING,” SAYS PUFALL OF THE PRODUCT DEMONSTRATIONS THAT CONVINCED HIM TO USE SANIFLO.

capacity. One of the demonstrations was to toss in a bunch of paper towels to see if the system could handle them. The technology was amazing.”

After seeing the demonstration, Pufall was convinced that above-floor plumbing was the way to go for the new suites on the north side. But the demonstration was so impressive, the decision was made to install Saniflo in the six south side suites as well. “We could have done six boxes with traditional plumbing, but we ended up doing all 12 with the Saniflo,” he says. “It turned out to be a champ and worked great for us.”

The Sanibest systems installed by True Flow Plumbing Inc. of Fayetteville, Ark., in each of the 12 luxury suites service both the wet bars and the restrooms. Each macerating pump discharges waste up and over the suites into the sewer line, and then into the sewer main. “That’s something I thought was quite remarkable,” Pufall notes. “The system has the ability to pump the waste and sewage water up, as

How the Sanibest Works

The Sanibest represents a step up in flushing power from Saniflo’s popular Saniplus model. While Saniplus will meet the needs of a typical residential application involving a toilet, hand basin, bath tub and shower, Sanibest is intended for larger residential and – as in the case of the Bud Walton Arena at the University of Arkansas – commercial applications. That means it can collect and pump away wastewater, not only from conventional bathroom fixtures, but also from urinals and even clothes washing machines.

The Sanibest is a grinder device with a cutting blade made of hardened steel that can handle larger sanitary articles as well as waste and toilet tissue. The blade rotates against a stationary, perforated base plate, so that waste is quickly and easily dispersed through the base plate’s holes and into a 3/4-inch or one-inch discharge line. While minimizing the risk of blockages in the unit and in the discharge line, the macerating action remains relatively quiet, with a noise level comparable to that of a conventional toilet re-filling.

The more powerful Sanibest system also pumps higher and farther: up to 18 feet vertically or nearly 180 feet horizontally (versus 12 and 150 feet, respectively for Saniplus) – or a lesser combination of these two distances. Home and building owners therefore have greater flexibility in where to situate a new bathroom in relation to the soil stack or the septic tank.

Although the most powerful unit in the Saniflo lineup, the Sanibest macerating toilet system is still low-consumption, using an elongated bowl that flushes the standard 1.6 gallons (six liters) per flush.

opposed to the traditional downward route, where gravity takes it.”

Pufall had the macerating pump boxes recessed behind the walls in each restroom. “You wouldn’t know the difference if you walked in there. That’s what amazed me. I was anticipating it would be something more boxy, in order to do what it is supposed to do. But then I saw that the grinder and pump are housed in a separate unit behind the water closet, but completely out of view within the chase wall. Because of that, you’re looking at what appears to be a conventional toilet.”



CLOSEUP VIEW OF SANIBEST MODEL INSTALLED IN ONE OF THE SUITES AT BUD WALTON ARENA. THE MACERATING UNIT IS RECESSED BEHIND THE WALL.

“After putting it in, everyone was kind of apprehensive, because you’re bringing new technology into a premium suite for your major donors,” Pufall admits. “You want to make sure it is flawless technology. We felt that Saniflo was an extremely positive experience for the university and this application. We went through the entire 2007-2008 basketball season and never had one problem.”

SFA SANIFLO INC. is the only manufacturer of its kind in North America, offering a complete line of macerating toilet systems and gray water pumping systems for residential and commercial applications. Saniflo markets through independent sales agents throughout North America, and the product line is currently available at distributor and dealer locations throughout the United States and Canada.

For more information, contact Saniflo at 1-800-571-8191. Or visit the Saniflo website at www.saniflo.com.

For editorial assistance, including photography, contact John O’Reilly c/o LNC Communications: 815-469-9100 or John@LNCmail.com

To download a hi-res .tif file of images to accompany this article, use this link <http://www.LNCmail.com/pr/sf0819-walton.html>