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Prison Gets Tough on Saving Money



The Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) is well-known as a “tough” prison system. It has a “no-nonsense” approach in the way it treats its 33,000 prisoners ...and the way the system is run.

However, after a generation of “tough on crime” policies, the ADC is facing its own problems. With more prisoners than it can accommodate, it is financially strapped and searching for ways to cut operational costs.

One possibility they are investigating is no-flush urinals. The ADC hopes these waterless urinals will not only use less water, but also save money on installation and plumbing costs.

No-flush urinals are as innovative and proven as they are practical. Urine flows into a liquid-filled drain trap insert that forms a barrier, preventing vapors from becoming airborne. Because urine is heavier than the liquid, it eventually overflows into a tube and down a conventional drain. No other plumbing is required.

“We compared two different systems manufactured by two different companies,” says Dwain Bussey , Physical Plant Supervisor at the ADC ’s prison in Globe, AZ. “We found one system’s cartridge had to be changed every 15 to 20 days—at a cost of about \$50 per cartridge—which would not save us any money.”

The other system, the Sierra™, manufactured by Waterless™ No-Flush Urinals, uses an EcoTrap trap insert that costs only \$6.50 and is changed two to four times per year. This system allows the liquid barrier to be replenished, which takes about 20 seconds and costs just pennies a day.

“We were so impressed with the Sierra urinal [and the savings], we ordered 11 more units,” says Bussey. “We plan on replacing all our conventional urinals and going waterless as soon as possible.”

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