



# American Restroom Association

**America's Advocate for Clean, Safe, Well-Designed Public Restrooms**

*An independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2004 - EIN # 20-3581202.*

## ARA "Comfort Press" eZine

*The newsletter for people who use public restrooms (everyone) and the organizations, companies, innovators, and entrepreneurs who strive to make them better.*

**OCTOBER 2021**

**America's Best Restroom? | Who Makes American Restrooms Work?  
The Public Toilet Crisis Across the Pond | Too Easy  
In the ARA's Reading Room: Facility Magazine**

### HOT OFF THE "PRESS"

Just as the Comfort Press was queued up for send, the *Chicago Tribune* published this detailed investigation, "Everybody needs access to bathrooms. Chicago doesn't provide nearly enough of them." Click [here](#) to access (10 min. read).



### America's Best Restroom Named by Cintas

Somehow it is very comforting to know that businesses and public accommodations are still striving for excellence. To that end, Cintas recently named the winner of their "America's Best Restroom" contest. For the 20th year of the award, they selected Two Cities Pizza in Mason, Ohio. It is also gratifying to see JFK Airport's Terminal 4 and William S. Craycraft Park in Mission Viejo, CA listed as finalists.



Interested in nominating a location for 2022? Click [here](#)! Want to check it out

for yourself. Click [here](#) for Google Maps!

---

## Who Makes American Restrooms Work? American Plumbers That's Who

AMERICAN  
PLUMBER  
STORIES



PfISTER  
PLUMBER

Certainly the unsung heroes of public restrooms are the people who keep the few we do have up to the challenge. A new effort in recruiting younger people to the plumbing trade recently kicked off.

[Ed. note: the following is excerpted from a piece by Judy Wohlt writing for [safep plumbing.org](#).] "With the plumbing trade experiencing a growing shortage of workers, Plumbing Manufacturers International member Pfister wants to help recruit the next generation of plumbers. Reaching into its marketing toolbox, the company is now producing "American Plumber Stories," a bi-weekly video series highlighting the passion and drive plumbers across the United States have for their profession.

"Plumbers are an extension of who we are as a plumbing manufacturer, so it made sense for us to help young people see – not just hear about – what a great career plumbing is," said Spencer Brown, director of sales for Pfister and executive producer of the series. "We need to engage with young people by sharing an authentic look at the plumbing trade today and real plumbers' success stories to encourage a new workforce."

"American Plumber Stories" can be viewed on YouTube via [americanplumberstories.com](#). The series features several plumbers sharing how they built successful careers that led to financially rewarding and fulfilling lives, as well as how some are training and supporting up-and-coming plumbers at local high schools." Read more at Plumbing Manufacturers International's [safep plumbing.org](#). Connect to American Plumber at [americanplumberstories.com](#).

---

DONATE NOW THROUGH

Network  for Good.



## The Public Toilet Crisis Across the Pond

The American Restroom Association has noted before that American public facilities are the laughingstock of the developed world. The situation in the UK illustrates how public facilities can easily erode. And as Steve Topples reports for The Canary, their public toilets crisis is "something we need to talk about."

He notes, "across England around one public toilet serves 12,500 people. So, it's of little wonder these vital services are thin on the ground in some areas. Because across the UK, councils have repeatedly closed public toilets since

2010 – shutting nearly 1,000 (22%) in ten years."

Topple points out the universal barriers that disabled people face to public toilet use. "There are around 1,154 fully accessible and equipped public toilets in the UK. There are also around 9,000 basic accessible ones. For these, you need a special key. This is called the "Radar National Key Scheme". But you have to buy the key online." Could a similar key program work here in the US?

To read more of the crisis across the pond, click the graphic above. (6 min. read)

### It's Almost Too Easy . . .

As an issue of the ARA Comfort Press is drafted, the first step is to cull through the unending list of restroom related stories and emails that come to our inbox. It's almost too easy to find stories of the journalist who has had an incident where a toilet wasn't available and that desperate search was undergone for a public toilet. See here: "[Bring Back the Public Restrooms](#)" from *Mother Jones*. The fact that these stories are so common demonstrates how the lack of facilities is endemic (to steal a current word). When will we be able to stop reporting about the symptoms and instead find stories about solutions being implemented? We'll wait . . .



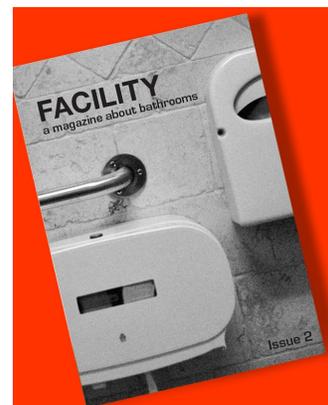
## Volunteers Needed!

Interested in helping the ARA in our mission? Fill out our [Contact the ARA](#) form, and we'll be in touch. Efforts include tracking restroom legislative activity and issues, as well as identifying funding opportunities. Get involved!



### What's in the ARA's "Reading Room?" Check out this hip new journal: *FACILITY*

When the cover says it is a magazine about bathrooms, they are right! Part literary review, part history project, part outlet for experimental writing and introspection about our relationships to bathrooms - it is all thought provoking. In particular, in the second issue, check out a fantastic interview with Seb Choe. Seb is Associate Director at JSA/MIXdesign and a key collaborator at [Stalled!](#) The interview is a 101-level course on the state of public restrooms and where the future could take us. Is it for everyone? Probably not. Is it a window on where we are? Definitely! Pick one up at your local independent bookstore online by clicking the graphic



above.

## Now Trending:

*Fresh stuff from the web and interesting items from the ARA Inbox.*

### For Your Consideration . . .

Courtesy of "That Ain't Right" on Facebook: 97,000 likes . . . reportedly in Laos.



### History Corner:

From the "Jewish Telegraphic Agency": 2,700-year-old private toilet found in Jerusalem. (3 min. read)

"(JTA) — A 2700-year-old toilet from the days of the First Temple in Jerusalem has been discovered by Israel's Antiquities Authority. Built as a private toilet stall at a time when few could afford such a luxury, the toilet is set to be unveiled to the public on Wednesday at an archaeology conference, though for viewing only." Read [more](#). . . Photo credit: Yoli Schwartz/Israel

*Antiquities Authority*



*Please note: The ARA makes no endorsement, representation, or warranty of any non-ARA information, service, or product detailed in this publication. All content is strictly offered in an informational capacity and readers are strongly urged to conduct their own evaluations of each. No direct compensation was provided for placement.*

*Watch this space for more innovations for both consumer and commercial applications.  
Have a new solution? [Contact us!](#)*

See what's happening and follow the ARA on our social sites:  
[Pinterest now on air!](#)



Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET  
800-247-3864 or 443-315-5250  
getinfo@americanrestroom.org

***About American Restroom Association (ARA):*** a nonprofit founded in 2004, ARA advocates for the availability of clean, safe, and well-designed public restrooms. Accomplishments include successfully advocating for enforcement of and revisions to the International Plumbing Code, congressional testimony on gender equity in public restrooms in US Federal Buildings, and representing the USA in educating international audiences at Summits and Conferences of the World Toilet Organization (WTO). ARA brings together an independent and multidisciplinary team from architecture, engineering, education, academia, business, and social work. Learn more at <https://americanrestroom.org/>.

Copyright © 2021 American Restroom Association, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Image credits: "white house" by gstudio courtesy adobe.stock.com. [All Gender restroom sign](#) by adasigndepot.com. All product photos, info, and logos are the property of their respective companies.