



# The Ford Flash

## New gold service truck brings in the greenbacks for Michigan PRO

By Jim Kneisz

**THE NEW RIG:** 2006 Ford F-550 portable restroom service truck built out by Imperial Industries Inc.

**BEHIND THE WHEEL:** Driver Chris Reidmiller

**OWNER:** Nick Plummer

**COMPANY:** Plummer's Disposal Service, Byron Center, Mich.

**SPECS:** The Ford is powered by a 6.0-liter diesel rated at 325 hp with an automatic transmission. The 700-gallon waste/400-gallon freshwater aluminum tank from Imperial is matched with a 160-cfm Masport pump. Accessories include a Burks DC-10 washdown system with Coxreels retractable hose reel, a large aluminum toolbox on each side, a two-unit carrier, custom-built hitch, stainless-steel rims, running boards and cold air intake on the engine to boost mileage and performance. The truck was displayed at the Pumper & Cleaner Environmental Expo in 2006.

**SHOWING MY COLORS:** Plummer's family owns a variety of related service businesses in the Grand Rapids area, and all of their trucks are the same color, Inca Gold, with a white accent stripe and green trim that contrasts the name on the doors. Plummer updated the look by adding a checkerboard pattern to the stripe. Graphics are by Kristen Bleyenbergh of B & K Graphics in Wyoming, Mich.

**WORKIN' FOR A LIVIN':** Plummer, 28, has been in business for two years delivering roll-off containers and portable restrooms. The new Ford is on the road five days a week in the winter, six days in the summer, stopping 30 to 50 times to service the company's 200 Five Peaks Technology restrooms. The runs cover Grand Rapids and surrounding suburban and rural areas. Sometimes the truck pulls an eight-unit restroom trailer from LWI. Plummer started out behind the wheel of the new truck, then turned it over to Reidmiller when full-time demand hit.

**ROLLING THE ODOMETER:** 40,000 miles per year.

**WHAT I LIKE THE MOST ABOUT MY NEW TRUCK:** "A combination of convenience, durability and power. It's not too big. With the hot shift PTO, you don't have a regular PTO to engage — just flip the switch and your vacuum pump is running. With the automatic transmission, you can put whoever you want in the truck and they're not going to tear it up. There's the convenience of one less thing the driver has to keep his mind on."

**CREATURE COMFORTS:** Auto transmission and air conditioning.

**WHY FORD:** "Ford is the only one that makes what I would call a standard truck chassis with a heavier GVW rating." The rating is 19,500 pounds, and Plummer says he'd have to go bigger and taller to get another brand with the same carrying power. "If I'm going in and out of that truck 30 times a day, that Ford is a lot closer to the ground than others."

**PAMPERING MY RIG:** The Ford gets washed at least every other day and a spray-down at the end of each workday. It's kept indoors overnight in the winter. Plummer religiously changes the oil at his shop every 5,000 miles.

**MY BACKUP SERVICE VEHICLE:** 2001 Kenworth T-300 with a 16-foot flatbed and a slide-in tank unit mounted behind the bulkhead. The truck is used mainly for roll-off container delivery, but doubles as a restroom pumper and delivery vehicle.

**WHEN HE'S NOT AT WORK:**

You'll find Plummer spending time with his wife, Anya, and their daughter, Ella, or bow hunting in Michigan's backwoods. A hunting highlight was bagging a wild boar with Motor City Madman Ted Nugent at the rocker's private hunting preserve. The trip was a "thank you" to Plummer, who once customized vehicles for Nugent, also a Michigan native. ■

### PARK IT OVER HERE!

Do you have a truck that's a real head-turner on the highway? This feature is your opportunity to share it with readers of *Portable Restroom Operator*. Send a photo of your **PRO Ride** after it has been lettered with your company name, and please pose the owner(s) with the truck. Any Portable Sanitation service truck is acceptable. Please limit your submission to one truck only. Excellent photo quality will improve your odds of being featured.

Your submission must include your name, company name, mailing address, phone number and details about the truck, including tank size, cab/chassis information, pump information, the company that built the truck and any other details you consider important. In particular, tell us what truck features help make your work life more efficient and profitable.

E-mail your materials to [editor@promonthly.com](mailto:editor@promonthly.com) or mail them to Editor, *Portable Restroom Operator*, P.O. Box 220, Three Lakes, WI 54562. We look forward to seeing your **PRO Ride**!