

MDL Marinas, Hampshire



Floating lodges with efficient Saniflo waste disposal

Hampshire-based MDL Marinas is a multi-service leisure business running marinas, boatyards and holiday centres in the South of England. Mercury Yacht Harbour and Holiday Park is one of the company's network of marinas in the picturesque village of Hamble, near Southampton; renowned for its marine history. Set in a sheltered wooded site where the Badnam Creek joins the River Hamble, the site has adjacent self-catering accommodation, a campsite and touring facilities. To take advantage of the stunning views over the water and today's trend for quirky accommodation, the company researched the idea of holiday lodges constructed onto pontoons in the water. First point of contact to discuss the viability of the scheme was specialist marina construction services company, Intermarine.

A site with space for up to 12 marine lodges was located looking out to the estuary and an initial plan to build three was agreed. Intermarine approached Tony Goodman from Trojan Timber Products as the two companies had worked extensively together on marine decking projects. Trojan Timber Products manufacture high quality sheds, garden buildings and beach huts. The lodges would be their most prestigious builds to date and Tony specified the water resistant materials to ensure the units were fully winter and water proofed.

The most complex area of the proposed build was the issue of drainage and how to discharge the waste from the bathrooms and kitchens with least possible disruption to customers and marina staff. Pumps were always going to be needed in the lodges themselves, but collection and storage

was the biggest stumbling block and ideas such as manual collection with a waste trolley or a separate floating tank were considered but rejected.

Tony from Trojan approached his local plumbing merchant for input and a call to the Saniflo technical team was recommended. This was swiftly followed by a visit to site to assess the options and present a workable solution. In fact, the solution proposed by Saniflo has allowed the waste to join up with the mains drain on the quay side, courtesy of a network of Sanibest Pro macerators fitted in the bathrooms of each lodge. The waste from each Sanibest Pro is discharged via solvent weld PVC pipe out of the side of each lodge. The discharge pipes are installed under service covers that run 20m towards the sea wall to an adjoining stretch of pontoon. They are then connected to a Sanifos 280 lifting station that is built in to an anti-corrosion black metal box under the edge of the pontoon and obscured by a large buoy. Neatly installed out of sight, the Sanifos is activated when a fill point is reached and the waste is then discharged into pipes under the water which run up the quay wall to the mains drains.

Karl Decaux, Commercial Manager for Intermarine, initially proposed an idea for a central waste repository on another pontoon, but was delighted with the solution proposed by Saniflo;

“ We really wanted to keep the waste landside, but we couldn't work out how to do it. The drain point wasn't far from the pontoon but smaller units couldn't pump far or high enough. The best thing we did was to make



MDL Marinas, Hampshire (contd.)

a call to Saniflo’s technical team who could not have been more helpful. Two representatives came to site to see the proposed location and came up with the solution that we have here today which is working brilliantly well. They were able to work out that the Saniflos could pump up at low tide when the pontoon was lower than the drainage. ”

The initial conversation took place in February 2021 and within 6 weeks the units had been installed by specialist marine installer, Shoreline. The timing was important as there were bookings for the May Bank Holiday weekend. Colin Jefferies, Manager of the holiday accommodation at MDL Marinas is very happy with the solution and so far the lodges have performed better than expected

“ The waste solution provided is working really well. It saved us a lot of headaches on how to get the waste from the marine lodges. At one point we considered manual emptying every couple of days. The Sanibest Pro connected to the Saniflos means that the whole

waste discharge process happens automatically. One year on and we’ve had no issues at all. The lodges are universally liked by customers and have enjoyed excellent occupancy even during winter. Quirky locations are popular, but it’s important they offer excellent facilities and we’ve been able to do that with the solutions provided by Saniflo. ”

Tony Goodman from Trojan Timber is also impressed. Going forwards there will be additional units added to the harbour and the waste solution will make the whole process even swifter. With his new understanding of the waste solutions provided by Saniflo, Tony believes he may be able to use them in projects going forwards;

“ Saniflo has a great range of products that aren’t just for domestic use and I can see the future possibilities for them with other customers. When we supply and install the next set of lodges in the future I now have knowledge of the waste solutions so the whole process should be quicker. Saniflo’s support was a godsend. ”



Waste is discharged from the Sanibest Pro in each lodge via 50mm pipework that is routed under the service covers of the pontoon



The waste from each lodge runs along the pontoon and discharges into pipework attached to the Saniflos 280



The Saniflos 280 is installed under the pontoon behind the floating buoy



Karl Decaux of Intermarine worked with Saniflo on the waste solution



Tony Goodman from Trojan Timber made the initial enquiry about pumps to his local plumbers merchant



Colin Jefferies of Mercury Yacht Harbour is delighted with the pumping solution for the floating lodges

