

## Four men charged years after an \$8.1M gold toilet was stolen

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By [Taylor Katzel](#)  
Associate Producer

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### The toilet has never been found

Turns out a heist to steal a toilet and get away with it may have just been a pipe dream, not a royal flush.

On Nov. 6, four men were charged after an 18-carat gold toilet was stolen back in 2019.

The toilet was taken from Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the countryside of Woodstock, England.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service said Monday that the four men are accused of burglary and conspiracy to transfer criminal property, and they will soon head to court.

#### **A fully functional piece of art**

The toilet was a work of art from 2016, titled *America* by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan.



The solid gold toilet was stolen from Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and birthplace of former British prime minister Winston Churchill. (Image credit: WPA Pool/Getty Images)

It was meant to be a commentary on excessive wealth, and was valued at 4.8 million pounds (\$8.1 million Cdn).

When it was stolen, the toilet worked, and visitors could book a three-minute appointment to do their business on it as part of the exhibition.

It was originally displayed at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, a modern art museum.

Blenheim Palace is filled with valuable art and furniture and draws thousands of visitors each year.

### **A crapshoot of a burglary**

The toilet was stolen overnight in September 2019.



The gold toilet stolen in 2019 has yet to be found. (Image credit: Reuters)

According to police, the removal of the toilet caused “significant damage and flooding” to the 18th-century building because it was connected to the plumbing system.

In 2021, the police wondered if the toilet may never be recovered.

“Will we ever see that toilet again? Personally I wonder if it’s in the shape of a toilet, to be perfectly honest,” police and crime commissioner Matthew Barber told the BBC.

Over the years, seven people had been arrested over the heist, but charges hadn’t been brought until now.

To this day, however, the toilet still hasn’t been recovered.

The four suspects are between the ages of 35 and 39.

They will appear in court on Nov. 28 to answer to the charges. They haven't been found guilty.