
HISTORY

Water cannons were first used for crowd control in the **1930s in Germany** and, by the **1960s**, were frequently used during the Civil Rights protests in the **United States**. Now most often employed as large truck-mounted hoses, water cannons are used worldwide, with little to no regulation.

HOW THEY WORK

Water cannons are water hoses either connected to in-ground water supplies or mobile bladders (often on trucks). They propel streams of **high-pressure water** aimed at pushing back crowds or low-pressure streams intended to douse. Modern water cannons can have flow rates of up to **20 liters of water per second**, and can stream water **67 meters away**. Different agents may be mixed into water cannons to create secondary impacts: **colored dyes**, **malodorous chemicals** and **invisible UV markers** are used as means of collective punishment or for the purpose of later identifying and arresting protesters.

