

MAKING A SIMPLE COMPOSTING TOILET

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Composting toilets are simple to make and a great idea to include as part of your home disaster preparation kit. And, they don't need any chemicals to dispose of the waste.

How do I make a basic composting toilet?

- Get a 20 litre plastic bucket (see *figure 1*)
- Fit with a toilet seat (see *figure 2*) or a lid with an insert cut out
- Get a second lid to cover the bucket when not in use

You can make an enclosure for your bucket from wood, brick, stone, tile or any other material just Google the web for options. Or, simply cut out hole/insert in a plastic deckchair and position over the top on the bucket.

How do I use my composting toilet?

- Place 20-30mm of organic material such as sawdust (untreated) or grass clippings inside the your composting toilet before use
- Every time the toilet is used (*figures 3 & 4*), place more organic material in the toilet, using enough to cover the urine and faeces
- Check the toilet regularly. If it starts to smell or becomes water-logged (has too much fluid in it), add more organic material to it
- When the toilet is full, remove the bucket and empty it in your compost heap



Figure 1: 20 litre plastic bucket

My composting toilet setup has a boat toilet seat attach directly onto the top of the bucket lid (see *figure 2*). A bucket with a snap-on toilet seat is the easiest composting toilet system to make, but not the most attractive option. To make your composting toilet 'beautiful', put the bucket inside a custom built enclosure, and use a standard toilet seat.



Figure 2: Toilet seat attached to lid (with insert cut out)



Figure 3: Does a bear sh*t in the woods? No, it uses a composting toilet!

How do I empty my composting toilet?

The contents of your compost toilet need to biodegrade in your compost heap to get rid of harmful pathogens. The human compost is considered safe after a few months. To be safe, allow your composting toilet materials to compost in your compost pile for two years.

To minimise pathogen exposure when emptying your toilet contents into your compost heap:

- Put on a pair of rubber gloves
- Dig a hole in the top of your compost heap and pour the contents of the bucket into the hole.

Clean the bucket and your gloves with a small amount of vinegar or soapy water made out of biodegradable soap to minimise odours.

Helpful Tips

1. Purchase four 20 litre buckets (or clean plastic 10 litre paint buckets). When your toilet is full, remove the bucket, attach a lid on top of it and set it aside. Place a different bucket inside the toilet. Repeat this, until you get to your last bucket. When you put the fourth bucket inside your composting toilet, empty the other three buckets in your compost heap. By doing this, you will reduce the amount of times you have to go out to your compost heap.
2. Do not put anything in your composting toilet besides biodegradable toilet paper.
3. Keep a container filled with organic matter such as sawdust (untreated) or grass clippings and a scoop next to your composting toilet.
4. Fluid is your composting toilet's enemy; to slow down its rate of fill, 'water' your garden with no.1s.



Figure 4: Every time the toilet is used, cover with about 2-3 cups of sawdust (untreated).