

# THIS IS A HUMANURE TOILET

## PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION SHEET

This toilet, when properly managed, uses very little water and creates no environmental pollution, while recovering soil nutrients to enrich plant growth.

### Proper use of this toilet requires three important steps:

- 1) **COVER YOUR CRAP** -- Always thoroughly cover the toilet contents after each use with a clean cover material that is somewhat fine in consistency (such as sawdust, peat moss, etc.) and not woody (such as wood chips or shavings). There should be enough cover material inside the toilet at all times to completely eliminate unpleasant odors. All urine and fecal material should be deposited into the toilet. Do not add food scraps to the toilet contents while the toilet receptacle is in use (food scraps can be added to the lidded receptacle after it has been removed from the toilet, or added directly to the compost bin). Always begin using the toilet with a clean layer of cover material in the bottom, several inches deep.
- 2) **COMPOST THE HUMANURE** -- *Only* empty the toilet contents into a compost bin constructed for this purpose. Do NOT dump the toilet materials into a ditch, in the woods, in your garden, or anywhere but into a compost bin. Photos of compost bins can be seen at [humanurehandbook.com](http://humanurehandbook.com). *Never* discard the toilet contents into the environment anywhere else. Erect the compost bin on a soil base and start the bottom of the bin with an 18" thick, dense layer of organic material such as hay, straw and/or weeds (this is the "biological sponge"). You can see a video showing how to start a compost pile at [humanurehandbook.com](http://humanurehandbook.com). Dig a depression into the *top center* of the bin contents and deposit the toilet materials there when emptying a container, then *always cover* new deposits (again, watch a video of this process at [humanurehandbook.com/videos.html](http://humanurehandbook.com/videos.html)). Collect the toilet material in an active bin for about a year, then allow the material to age in that bin (now passive) for another year while the next active bin is filling. In any case, allow the compost bin contents to age for one year after collection before applying to soil. If the temperature of the compost is monitored and consistent thermophilic (hot) conditions are observed, the finished compost may be used for food production. If in doubt, use the finished compost for horticultural purposes. Wash the toilet containers before returning them to the toilet room and deposit the wash water into the active compost bin (or use a biodegradable plastic liner in your toilet receptacle). Add all household food scraps and other organic materials to the active compost bin.
- 3) **COVER THE COMPOST** -- Always cover new deposits in the compost bin with a thorough layer of cover material such as hay, straw, weeds, leaves or other bulky material. The cover material must be adequate enough to prevent the release of unpleasant odors from the compost bin. A supply of cover materials must always be kept handy to the compost bins (a few bales of straw stacked beside the bin, for example). Part the cover materials with a pitchfork or shovel before adding the toilet deposit, then cover again.

**OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER** – Always wash out the emptied toilet receptacle with a little biodegradable soap (dish soap works well) using a long handled toilet brush. Wash water should be poured into the compost bin. One gallon of water will clean two five-gallon receptacles. Make sure toilet paper and even toilet paper tubes are added to the toilet contents. Compost benefits from a variety of materials, so food, kitchen scraps, garden residues and yard materials should all be deposited into the compost bin along with the toilet materials (leaves and weeds can be stockpiled in an adjacent covered bin and used as needed for cover material). For more information, consult the Humanure Handbook, free online ([humanurehandbook.com](http://humanurehandbook.com)) or available via any book store. The book is available for \$25 by calling toll free 866-641-7141.