

HEALTH EDUCATION: LATRINES

- Knowledge** After working through this lesson, participants will be able to
- Attitude** 1. Describe why latrines are important.
- Practice** 2. Describe where a latrine should be built
3. Explain what a VIP latrine is, and talk about other types of latrines.
4. Give some information about building a latrine.
- Overview** This series of lessons is based on the *Health Education Program for Developing Communities, 2018*, which is available from <http://hepfdc.info/>.
- These lessons are accompanied by a series of health teaching booklets on the individual topics. They are based on information and standards from the World Health Organization. This lesson should be taught after *Safe Drinking Water and Hygiene*. The lessons can be used with adults or with older children and teens.
- Materials** *Collect these items before beginning the lesson:*
- Poster-size paper, markers, and masking tape
 - *Latrines* picture book
 - Handouts
 - *Latrine Designs*

LESSON

60 minutes

Problem: (15 minutes)

Instructions: Your family is moving to a new area where there is no running water or drainage yet. So you want to build a latrine in order to keep healthy and prevent infections. What kind of latrine will you build? Where will you build it? Do you have any specific instructions? Divide into small groups to plan your latrine. Report back.

Ask SHO Questions:

*What did you **S**ee?*

*What was **H**appening?*

*Does this happen in **O**ur place?*

Planning your Latrine (10 minutes)

A. Where will you build the latrine?

1. Near the house, so that it is convenient
2. At least 20 meters from any water source
3. Do not build the latrine near a well or spring.

B. What will the latrine be made of?

1. It can be made of bricks, blocks, wood, corrugated metal, matting or other materials.
2. Use what is locally available.

C. How big is the pit?

1. The pit is usually about one meter wide by 3 meters deep.

D. What covers the top of the pit?

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1. The latrine should have a concrete floor or covering slab, with a hole in the middle.
2. The hole is covered by a cover with a handle.
3. That keeps the flies and odors out.

Different Designs for Latrines? (15 minutes)

Instructions: Divide into four groups. Each group will study one of the four designs from *Latrine Designs*. What are advantages and disadvantages of each type?

A. Simple latrines

1. A simple latrine has a single pit.
2. It has no ventilation pipe.
3. It is easy to build, but may be smelly and have flies.
4. The upper third of the pit (or more) should be reinforced, especially in sandy soil.
5. This can be done with bricks, blocks, reinforcing rings, or an empty oil can.
6. This keeps the pit from collapsing.

B. Ventilation-improved pit latrines

1. They have a ventilation tube, usually made from PVC, extending from the pit to above the roof of the latrines.
2. That vents the odors out of the latrines.
3. The PVC pipe is covered by a wire mesh.
4. So, flies and mosquitoes can go up through the pipe but can't get out.
5. So, they fall back into the pit to die.
6. VIP latrines smell better than simple latrines and have less flies.
7. But they will fill up after a while.

C. Double pit VIP latrines

1. This is also a VIP latrine, but with two pits.
2. One side is used until it fills up.
3. Then the other side is used.
4. After a year, the filled side can be emptied.
5. So the latrine never fills up.
6. This is more work to build, but it lasts longer.

D. Pour-flush latrine

1. This can have either one or two pits.
2. Water is used to flush the pan.
3. So it should not smell nor have flies.
4. But this depends on having a supply of water.

Why are Latrines Important? (5 minutes)

Instructions: Discuss in large group.

A. What did Moses teach? Read Deuteronomy 23:12-13

1. Have a place outside of camp to relieve yourself.
2. After you relieve yourself, dig a hole to cover your excrement.
3. So if you don't have a latrine, you can dig a hole to cover your poop.

B. Why is it important to use a latrine?

1. That keeps the soil from being contaminated with germs and parasites.
2. Latrines keep people from getting sick.
3. But everyone in the community must use the latrine.

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- C. Why can't you just treat infections with germs and parasites with medicines?
 - 1. That may cure the infection, but people will get sick again with germs and parasites.
 - D. What should you teach your children to do after they use the latrine?
 - 1. They must wash their hands with soap and water.
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Picture Book (15 minutes)

- A. Divide into pairs. Practice teaching each other about latrines using the *Latrines* picture book.
 - 1. Practice teaching
 - B. During the week, teach your family and neighbors about latrines, using the booklet.
 - 1. Teach your neighbors.
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I. **Conclusions and Take-Away** (time)

Instructions: Discuss together.

- A. *What did we discover in this lesson?*
 - B. *What will we do with what we discovered in this lesson?*
 - C. *Pray together.*
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References:

Health Education Program for Developing Communities. Available from: <https://hepfdc.org/>

Health Topics. World Health Organization. Available from: <http://www.who.int/topics/en/>

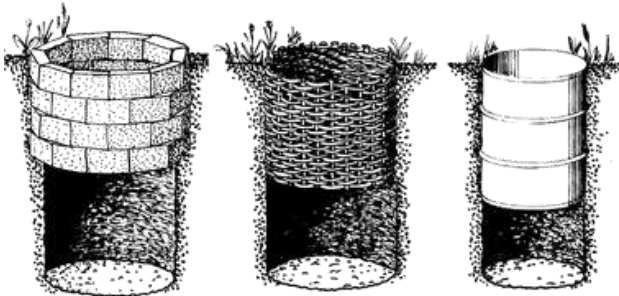
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LATRINE DESIGNS

Simple pit latrine



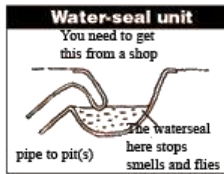
Ways to reinforce latrine pits



Ventilation-improved pit latrine



Pour-flush latrine



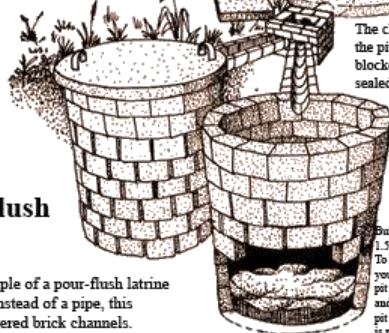
Water is thrown in to flush the pan.

removable cover

The channel/pipe to the pit not in use is blocked with a stone sealed with clay.

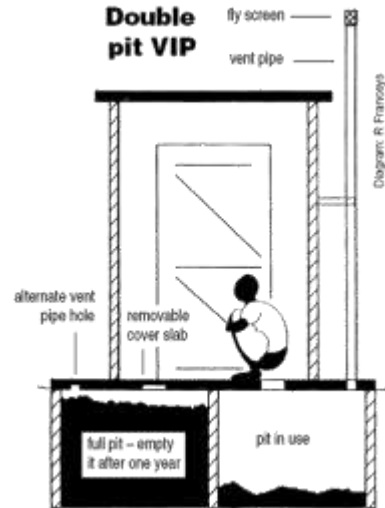
A pourflush latrine

This is an example of a pour-flush latrine with two pits. Instead of a pipe, this design uses covered brick channels.



Build the pits at least 1.5m apart. To spread the cost, you can first build one pit with the channels – and build the second pit later, when the first is nearly full.

Double pit VIP latrine



Source of illustrations: Tearfund. 2006. PILLARS: Encouraging good hygiene and sanitation. Available from: <http://tilz.tearfund.org/Publications/PILLARS/Encouraging+good+hygiene+and+sanitation/>