

The ECOSAN toilet or the 'ECOSAN compost pit latrine'

The ECOSAN toilet is a very advanced and modern way of constructing a toilet. The main objective is:

1. To avoid contamination of ground water.
2. To avoid pollution of air, water, and soil.
3. To recover nutrients from human excreta and safely recycle them back to the environment as fertilizers,



The toilet seen from inside with lids covering the holes to the two chambers and the urine outlet in the middle.

This toilet will be constructed only above the ground level. It consists of two chambers, which are used in turn for defecation, and an outlet for urine. In this way urine and feces is going separately. When the first chamber is filled up with feces, it is closed for 6 months. In the meantime the second chamber is filled up.

Important features

The important features of the ECOSAN toilet are:

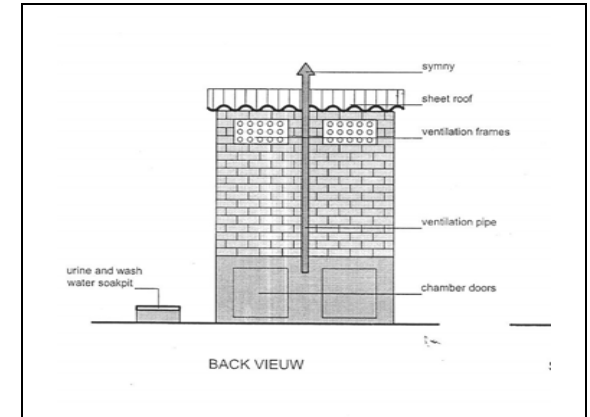
- ✓ It is not polluting water or soil, because the feces are kept in the watertight chambers. Even if the ground around the toilet is flooded, feces will not get in connection with the water.
- ✓ It is improving environmental sanitation by converting feces to manure.
- ✓ It uses less water than other toilets. 2-3 liters of water per day are enough. The standard toilet requires 10 – 12 liters per day. A person can save up to 7000 liters of water per year. This is a big advantage when water is becoming scarce at various times of the year.
- ✓ Urine is separated at the time of defecation and will be mixed with the water from washing. All the water will be diverted to a soakage pit, to the kitchen garden or collected and used as urea for agriculture.
- ✓ The human waste is safely disposed of by the user of the toilet.
- ✓ There is no odor.
- ✓ The toilet is easy to clean.

During six months the feces in the first chamber will decompose.

Then the chamber can be opened and the compost taken out and used as manure in garden or field.

It is important that no water is running down in the chambers where feces are collected.

Therefore the toilet has to be cleaned by use of ash, and ash has to be strewn in the chamber after use. Water for cleaning has to be used above the urine outlet.



Toilet seen from the backside. The two chambers where feces are collected have doors that can be opened when the compost is ready after 6 months.

The compost that we get after 6 months are having these features:-

- ✓ Increases water holding capacity of soil
- ✓ Improves soil structure.
- ✓ Breaks up organic matter in a form that plants can use as nutrients.
- ✓ Contains useful chemicals.
- ✓ Prevents pests.

How to use the toilet

- Remove the cover lid of the pit
- Sit properly on the seat so that faces will go directly in to the pit.
- After defecation spread some ash or sand
- Close the pit with the cover lid.
- Clean anus, wash hands with ash, soap, mud or water.
- Ensure that the cleaning water does not leak into the pit



The chambers under construction

We cordially thanks the organizations BLESS, Palmyra and Eco-Pro for giving training and instructions to our staff in use and construction of ECOSAN toilets.

The technology is free for everyone to use, as its goal is to provide environmentally safe toilets to people in need. Cost of a toilet is app. Rs 11,000/-.

118 Ecosan Toilets have been constructed by the project. Assistance and training can be provided by:

BLESS

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Palmyra - Auroville

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Eco-Pro

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- and by the partners in the project:

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Practica Foundation

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Green Post Tsunami Action

Introduction of the ECOSAN toilet



Green Post Tsunami Action is funded by EU under ASIE/2006/124-160

