

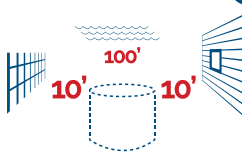
What's a Latrine?

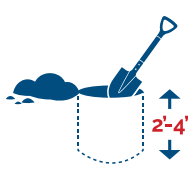
A latrine (or pit toilet) is a hole in the ground that collects human waste in an emergency.

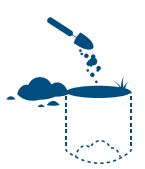



After an earthquake you may need to live without a working toilet. The best option is a twin bucket system (see reverse). If that's not possible, an emergency alternative is a latrine.

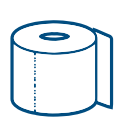
"How-to" Instructions

- A diagram showing a dashed circle representing a latrine. To its left is a fence, and to its right is a house. A stream is shown above the latrine. Distances are marked: 100' from the stream, 10' from the fence, and 10' from the house.

1 Find a spot at least **10 feet** from your residence, **10 feet** from the property line and **100 feet** from any stream or water source.
- A diagram showing a shovel digging a hole in the ground. A vertical double-headed arrow indicates the depth of the hole as 2'-4'.

2 Dig down **2 to 4 feet**. The hole should be about **2 feet** in diameter. *If you hit water, stop – then dig at another location.* Save the soil you remove.
- A diagram showing a shovel covering waste in a hole with soil.

3 Cover waste with soil after each use.
- A diagram showing a wooden stake with a ribbon tied around it, stuck into the ground to mark a location.

4 Dig a new hole as needed. Fill the former latrine and mark the location.
- A diagram of a roll of toilet paper.

5 Used toilet paper goes into the latrine. Do not use plastic bags.

Learn more
EmergencyToilet.org

Septic System Tips



After a strong earthquake you may need to live without a working toilet for weeks or months. On-site septic systems are buried underground and can become damaged.

Is your system working?

Your septic system may still be working if:

- ❓ Your water supply is functioning
- ❓ You have electricity (some systems require power for a pump)
- ❓ Toilets flush and sinks drain properly

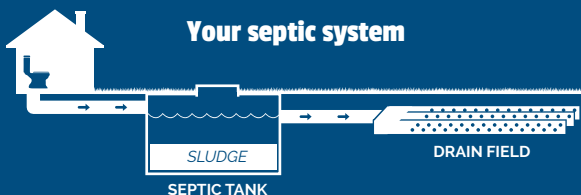
Signs it is not working

After an earthquake, inspect your septic system to look for these signs of problems:

- ✔ The earth has moved around your septic system
- ✔ Abnormal wet or soft spots in yard
- ✔ Sewage odors
- ✔ Water or sewage backing up in downstairs bath or floor drain

If you have problems

- 1 Limit use of water in your home and use a twin bucket system until repairs are made (*see reverse*).
- 2 Keep people and pets away from your septic system until it is back in service.
- 3 Only use licensed professionals to repair/replace your septic system.



Learn more
EmergencyToilet.org

Emergency Toilet – Protect Your Family’s Health

After a strong earthquake you may need to live without a working toilet for weeks or months. Disease is spread when human waste – POO – is not handled and stored safely.

Twin Bucket System

Separating PEE lessens volume and odor, making bucket contents safer and easier to store and dispose.

Liquid waste – PEE

- Use **PEE** bucket.
- Place toilet paper in **POO** bucket.
- Add water to contents if possible.
- Pour on lawn, garden or ground.

Fecal waste – POO

- Line bucket with heavy duty 13-gallon garbage bag.
- Use **POO** bucket.
- Cover each use with bark chips, etc. to help dry the waste.
- Fill bucket no more than half full of waste.
- Double-bag and store the waste separate from other garbage and away from food and water.
- Secure waste from pets, flies, rats,

Stay informed – watch for instructions from public agencies on how to get rid of waste.



Learn more
EmergencyToilet.org