

What do you notice in this picture?



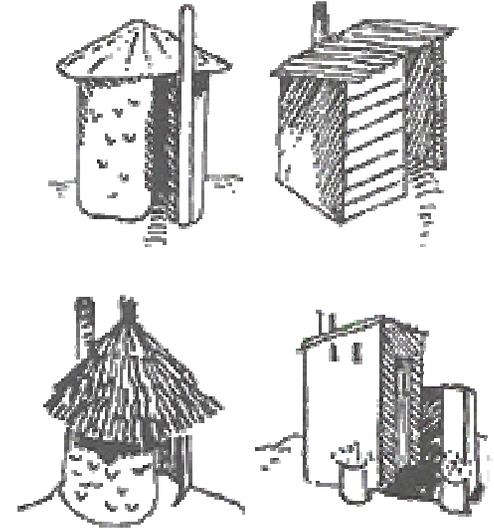
Observations:

- This is a simple latrine (rather than a VIP latrine).
- Human excrement (poop) attracts flies and is full of germs.

More observations:

- The latrine has a concrete slab base with a seat. The hole is covered to keep out flies.
- It is important to wash your hands after using the latrine.

LATRINES



Latrines come in many different styles, and are made of different materials. But what do you notice about all these latrines?

Source of illustrations:

Health Education Program for Developing Nations. Available from: <http://www.hepfdc.info/>

Tearfund. 2005. *Building a pit latrine*. Available from: <http://tilz.tearfund.org/Publications/Footsteps+1-10/Footsteps+9/>

VIP Latrines

All of those latrines are VIP latrines, or ventilation-improved pit latrines. They had a PVC pipe that goes from the pit and extends above the roof.

- What are some problems that most latrines have?
- How do VIP latrines help to prevent this?
- Why does this latrine have a spiral shape?

Answer: Most latrines are smelly and full of flies. But with VIP latrines, the PVC or ventilation pipe carries odors out of the latrine. Flies or mosquitoes fly up the pipe toward the light, but they are trapped by the wire mesh, so they fall back into the pit to die.

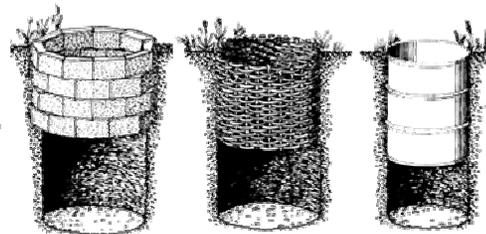
Latrines should have a concrete slab base with a fly-proof cover, to keep flies out. This latrine has no seat.

The latrine is spiral in shape so that not much light comes in. It could also have a door.

The pit can be lined or reinforced with different materials: bricks, blocks, stones, an oil drum, or bamboo, for example.



This diagram shows a Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine with a single pit. The shelter shown has a spiral shape, but other forms of shelter can be used.



Planning a latrine

Where should latrines be built?

- Near the house
- At least 20 meters from any water source.

What are the walls made of?

- There are many options: mud, brick, wood, or corrugated metal.

What size is the pit?

- About 1 meter across
- About 3 meters deep

Latrines help to prevent infections with parasites and bacteria, or germs. But why not just take medicines to treat those infections?

- Unless everyone in your community uses a latrine or bathroom, you will just get infected again.

What should you do after you use the latrine?

- Be sure to wash your hands!