

Finding Parts & Supplies

Note: The information here is from the page of the same name on www.phlush.org. As we try to update the page regularly, we appreciate tips on where to find supplies free and best places to purchase them. Send comments and suggestions to info@phlush.org

Most of components of the Twin Bucket Emergency Toilet can be found in a typical household or be obtained free or at low cost in most neighborhoods. The heart of this system is plastic containers, such as those used in the food industry. Since Federal regulations prohibit the commercial reuse of plastic buckets and barrels for food, containers are sold cheaply for other uses or simply dumped into landfills.

Think containers! For emergency systems every size is useful. Three and four gallon buckets usually discarded by bakeries come with good lids and work for the twin toilet, particularly for kids. You can store water and carbon material in square receptacles. The Tap Up handwashing apparatus (see *A Sewer Catastrophe Companion*) can be fashioned from smaller buckets. Large 55-gallon barrels in which food is transported are excellent for rainwater harvesting and long term composting. Wheeled recycling barrels can be used for both storage and transport. So keep your eyes open for plastic containers and collect and store as many as you can.

Other items for readiness. Disposable plastic gloves, hand sanitizer, remoistened wipes, toilet paper, and print copies of Twin Bucket Emergency Toilet leaflet and *A Sewer Catastrophe Companion*. Depending on your situation you may fashion a dedicated sanitation kit, integrate sanitation supplies in a general kit, or simply rotate household supplies, ensuring you have sufficient reserves for an extended emergency.

Please note! Vendors are listed below but that does not mean we've tested and endorse. Most suppliers of emergency toilets and components mistakenly assume that users have disposal options. A Cascadia Subduction Zone quake is likely to destroy piped systems, so plan accordingly to use dual containers to separate pee and poo.

Supplies for the Twin-Bucket Emergency Toilet

Buckets: Buckets in various colors with lids that fit can be ordered here.

Lids: You need lids. A lid with a spout is useful for pouring urine. Many lids are not reusable but U.S. Plastics "Saver" and "Gamma" lids are. You can also buckets with lids.

Seats: Plastic seats need to be purchased unless you fit standard toilet seats to containers. Plastic toilet seats generally fit cylindrical buckets ranging from 3 to 7 gallons. Get them at emergency suppliers (The Preparedness Center, QuakeKare, Emergency Essentials, etc), at camping stores (Andy and Bax, REI, Cabela's, Gander Mtn, etc) or from Amazon.com. The Preparedness Center offers a flexible seat as part of a bucket toilet. While you can remove the toilet seat from your bathroom toilet and duct tape it on a bucket, it's best to have a seat which you can easily shift from bucket to bucket.

Bucket toilets: Emergency Essentials and Tote-able offer camping-style single bucket toilets with snap-on seat and seat cover for about \$15. Add found buckets to separate pee and poo and move the seat from one to another.

Carbon Substrate to Compost Poo: Ask your local lumberyard for sawdust and the coffee roaster for coffee husks. Save bags of shredded paper. If you don't have a much space, buy wood pellets or coconut coir fiber bricks as these expand when a small amount of water is added. (Add 1.25 liters of water to a brick-sized coir brick to yields 8 or 9 liters of friable carbon covering material.) Many options are available on Amazon.com. We found 250 gram coir fiber brick for \$1.13 and 40-lb bag of wood pellets for \$5.99.

Make a Kit? For about \$40 you can get everything required for a sanitation kit that nests in one bucket and makes a fine and loving gift.

Other Toilet Products

Waterless urinals separate urine efficiently in communal situations. Falcon, Waterless, Sloan and others carry them.



Personal funnels for females include the reusable GoGirl, Whiz Freedom, and the disposable P-Mate. Funnels can also be made from plastic bottles or by being creative with origami.

Air Head Composting Toilets are designed for use in boats and off-grid cabins, this is a small, well-designed, high-quality vented, urine diverting dry toilet. \$995.

GreenFlush Restrooms is a Vancouver, Washington firm that manufactures attractive structures which harvest rainwater and reuse it to flush toilets.

Toilets can be sandbagged or sealed. If a quake is followed by a tsunami and flooding, household toilets will likely overflow. A company in the UK that provides instant sandbags, which expand when wet, also carries toilet seals. Toilet seals prevent backflow. Here's how to sandbag a toilet to keep a toilet from backing up in a flood.