

***The Chisungu
Primary School
Water and
Sanitation project***

***How to make
simple hand
washing devices***

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If health benefits are to be gained from a sanitation programme the inclusion of a hygiene and hand washing component is essential. Hand washers of many types are easy to make and cost almost nothing. They should be fitted to every low cost (or high cost) toilet made. Hand washers can be made from tin cans and plastic bottles and cups as the following pictures show.

Making a simple hand washer from plastic bottle



Cut the bottom off about one third up. Make a hole in one corner of the base near the edge with a sharp nail or sharpened piece of wire.



Wrap some thin wire around the bottle and hook up to part of the toilet. To use the washer it can be dipped into a container of water on the ground or some water from another bottle can be added to the washer. The water comes out slowly, but it is sufficient to wash the hands. It uses water economically. Tin cans can also be used. This is described next.

Making a simple hand washer from an alloy can



Take an alloy can (coke etc) or a tin can and take the top off with a can opener. Make a hole at the edge of the base with a drill or a thin nail which is punched through the metal. Attach a wire loop around the top of the can to hold it tight.



Many types of alloy can work well. A single hole can be punched into the bottom of the can at the edge as shown. Two further holes are made with the nail at the top of the can. These are made at right angles to the single hole made in the base of the can. A wire is passed through the holes and tightened up at the back of the can. Then a loop is made at the top of the wire. Wire is looped around the can to hold it firm. A loop is made at the end of the wire to hang it on part of the toilet structure.



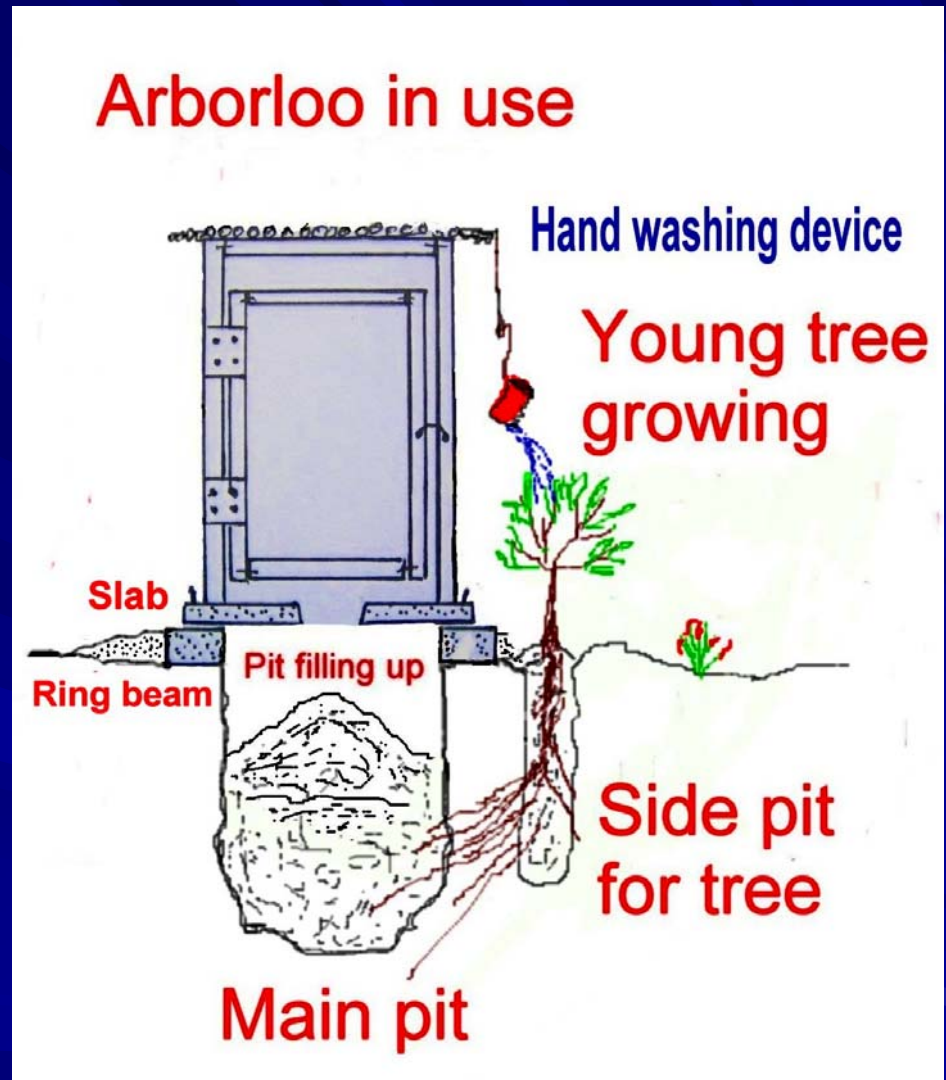
Hang the can on a part of the roof structure of the toilet so that it can be taken off. Place a bucket or container of water under the hand washing device so the tin can be dipped into the bucket to collect the water. Hang the tin up again and the water will run out slowly so the hands can be cleaned.

Soap helps to wash hands properly, but wood ash is also good if soap is not available



Soap can be hung from a wire or string also attached to the roof. A hole can be drilled through the soap and the soap is held in place. Otherwise the soap can be kept in a safe place. Wood ash can also be used to wash the hands. A little pot with a lid can be placed near the hand washer. These cans can last a long time.

Water falling from the hand washer can be used to irrigate flowers or trees beneath the washing device.



Hand washing

*Every toilet should be fitted with a hand washing device.
They can be made at low cost from tins and cans and
gourds etc.*

**NO TOILET IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A
HANDWASHING DEVICE**

