

Twin-pit ventilated, improved pit (VIP) latrines

When it is not possible to dig a deep pit, a twin-pit VIP may be considered.

Two pits, each of about one cubic metre are dug side by side. The pits are covered by four cover slabs. The outer two slabs are fitted with handles to help with their removal. The centre two each contain two holes. One for the toilet and the other for the ventilation pipe. The two central slabs are covered by a superstructure which can be kept dark inside.

The two holes over one of the pits are blocked with wooden or concrete covers. The ventilation pipe is fitted over the hole in the other pit slab. This pit can then be used as a latrine.

When the first pit is full the ventilation pipe is removed and fitted over the second pit and the two hole covers moved to the holes in the first pit. The second pit can then be used as a latrine while the contents of the first pit decompose.

When the second pit is full the removable side cover on the first pit can be opened and the pit contents emptied. The first pit can then be returned to service and the contents of the second pit allowed to decompose. See posters 13 and 14 for more information about twin-pits.

