

Pit Privy Construction Notes

Pit Privy Recommendations

STEP ONE: Decide where to locate the pit.

- Find an upland site where the ground water table is deep enough to ensure an appropriate separation between the bottom of the pit and the groundwater. Locations should be downslope of work camps and water intakes.
- Locate the pit privy in an area where the water will drain away from the pit. Make sure the pit is in an area that is not subject to flooding.
- The pit privy must meet the following minimum separation distances (set backs).

MINIMUM REQUIRED SEPARATION DISTANCES Measured Horizontally or Vertically

30.5 m (100 feet)	Surface water, wetlands, sloughs, swamps
15 m (50 feet)	Properly constructed drilled well serving a private water system used for domestic purposes
30.5 m (100 feet)	Other types of wells (not a properly constructed drilled well serving a private water system used for domestic purposes)
Consult with Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment if less than 225 m (750 feet)	A well serving a municipal or large waterworks
0.6 metres (2 feet)	Any property line
7.6 metres (25 feet)	Any structure, whether permanent or not

STEP TWO: Dig the pit.

- Dig a pit deep enough to provide capacity for the amount of waste anticipated. The bottom of the pit must be at least 1.5 metres (5 ft) above the groundwater table and the waste must be covered with at least 0.6 m (2 ft) of compacted non-porous soil when the pit is closed down.
- Construct the pit to prevent cave-ins. If necessary, cribbing can be used to shore up the sides of the pit. Cribbing should fit firmly against the earthen walls on all sides. Cribbing should descend the full depth of the pit and rise flush with the ground level. Use only untreated lumber for the cribbing.
- Construct the pit so water drains away from the opening and not into the pit. Use the excavated soil to berm up around the pit.

STEP THREE: Construct the privy.

- The opening of the pit should be protected from rain and snow in order to prevent the pit from filling with extra liquids.
- There must be a covering over the pit that prevents insects and vermin from entering the pit. A bench must be constructed over the pit that has a closing lid. If a commercial toilet seat is used, remove the knobs from the underside of the seat and seal the toilet seat to the bench. Use durable and cleanable materials.
- Ventilation screening with openings no greater than 1/16 inch should be used to cover the vent openings.
- Ensure that all possible accesses into the pit are sealed to prevent small insects from entering the pit.