

# handbasin, fly-trap, extras

## plumb in handbasin

This isn't really the place to talk about basic plumbing, so if you don't think you can do it, get a professional to do it. But if you know basic plumbing, here's a brief outline for plumbing in the handbasins (no water to the waterless urinal of course):

You'll need: 15mm copper pipe, 2 isolating valves, 2 end-feed or compression tees, various elbows and / or compression fittings depending on preference, tape measure, pipe benders, pipe cutters, solder, blowtorch, flux, wire wool, pipe clips, screws, screwdriver, and adjustable spanner and wrench if using compression fittings.

Turn off hot and cold water at the relevant stop taps, and empty pipes by opening the relevant taps on existing basins etc. Tee from the hot and cold water pipes, and bring pipework into the toilet. If the room wasn't a toilet before, you may need to knock a hole in the wall to bring in the pipes. Install isolating valves on the pipes once they are in the room. You can then close the isolating valves and turn the water back on elsewhere.

Measure, cut, and fit together all runs of pipe, from the isolating valves to the tap fittings under the handbasins. Put pipe clips onto the pipes and mark where they will go on the walls. When everything fits perfectly, take everything apart. Fit the pipe clips to the walls using a masonry drill / rawlplugs. Then solder all lengths of pipe / elbows / fittings etc. (or tighten compression joints), tighten the fittings under the taps on the handbasins, and push the pipes into the pipe clips.

Measure, cut and fit 15mm lagging to the pipes.

## fly-trap

A good idea is to install a simple fly-trap. First find a medium-sized jar with a screw-on lid. Turn the jar upside down and place it on the platform in a corner, where you want the fly-trap to be. Draw around the lid with a pencil. Then draw another circle about 1cm in from this one, using a pair of compasses. Drill some holes around the circumference of this smaller circle, then cut it out with a jig-saw, or if you don't have one, a hacksaw blade.



*You can put a fly-catcher like this one in a corner of the platform.*

Cut a similar sized hole out of the lid of the jar, then apply contact adhesive around the hole in the platform (as far as the original circle you drew around the lid, and on the lid itself. Wait for the contact adhesive to become touch-dry, and stick the lid over the hole.

Meanwhile, cut out a piece of perspex to make a little cone that will fit into the jar lid; you can staple the cone together, and / or use contact adhesive. Put the cone into the lid, then screw the jar onto the lid as well.

Any flies in the chamber will be attracted to the light, fly through the hole in the platform, out of the small hole in the top of the cone, and be trapped in the jar.

You can occasionally unscrew the jar, and vacuum up the flies – or you can sweep them up and tip them back into the chamber.



*To remove dead flies, unscrew the jar and sweep them up; you can see the perspex cone which allows flies to enter the cone, but not get back into the chamber.*

## **blank plate**

The seat will be moveable, and attached to the platform with 'L' brackets (you can make them or buy them), so you need to make a blank plate to cover the hole in the chamber that's not being used. You can use a piece of ply about 100mm bigger than the hole all round. Paint one side with bituminous paint, and the other with anything you like. When the bituminous paint has dried, fix a length of draughtproof strip around the edge, and place it on the platform, over the hole. You can fix it to the platform with some sort of brackets, or just put something heavy on top.

## **decorate**

It's important to decorate really well, as people who may be put off by the thought of a compost loo, will be even more put off if it's in a dirty or dingy room. Paint the room a bright, friendly colour (eco-paints of course), not forgetting the pipe lagging and vent pipe.

Although you don't need a toilet brush for the toilet itself, you will still need one for the urinal, to wash it out occasionally. Install a toilet roll holder, mirror, curtains, and maybe pictures, and a shelf

with plants and pot pourri – anything to make it nice so that people will want to use it. You should take more care than with a conventional toilet, because visitors may have pre-conceived ideas and be reluctant to use a compost toilet. Make them feel more at ease by creating a welcoming, clean room. Imagine your granny using it.

## **extras**

There are a couple of extras that you need in a compost toilet that you don't need in a conventional toilet. One is a bucket for sawdust / soak, and the other is instructions on the wall, preferably where they can be read whilst sitting on the loo (see below), as people unused to compost loos may be looking for something to flush, and may be unaware that they are supposed to throw down a handful of sawdust when they are finished.

You may want to think about the position of lighting in the room. Wall lights may be a better idea than ceiling lights, as if the light is overhead, then you may see just a little bit more than you want to when you look down the toilet.

Another good thing to have is a manual for your particular compost loo. This can be handed over to the new owners or tenants if the house is sold, or if someone looks after your house while you are travelling, for example. It should explain how to maintain and clean the toilet, where to get sawdust from, how to troubleshoot, peak-knock, empty the toilet, where to put the compost, how to change over the seat, the timescale for carrying out these tasks, and anything else necessary to ensure that future users treat it in the way that you intended it to be treated.

# instructions

- **Don't use just for a wee.** Compost loos don't like too much liquid, so if all you want is a wee – please use one of the other toilets / urinal.
- **Please throw in a handful of sawdust after use.** This balances the carbon:nitrogen ratio and helps bacteria to break the waste down.
- **Toilet paper is fine.** And so is the middle of the toilet roll.

A compost toilet is good for the environment in three main ways:

- Diverts human waste from sewage works / rivers – doesn't need to be treated with chlorine or other chemicals.
- Allows organic matter to go back to the soil where it belongs.
- Saves water – you're not flushing away one resource (fertilizer) with another (pure drinking water).