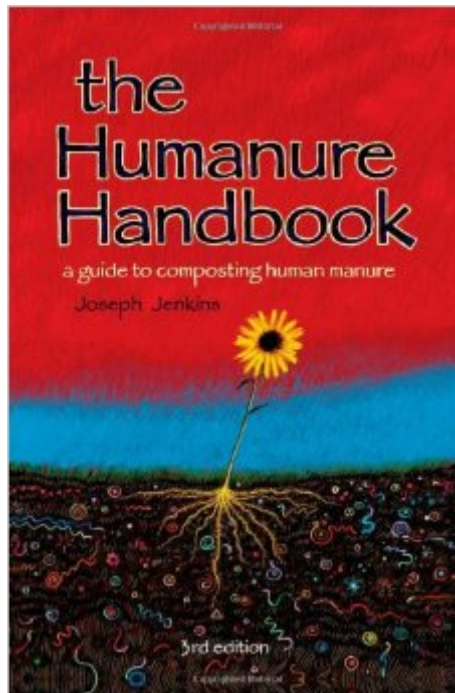


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The Humanure Handbook: A Guide To Composting Human Manure, Third Edition



Synopsis

The 10th Anniversary Edition of the most comprehensive, up-to-date and thoroughly researched book on the topic of composting human manure available anywhere. It includes a review of the historical, cultural and environmental issues pertaining to "human waste," as well as an in depth look at the potential health risks related to humanure recycling, with clear instructions on how to eliminate those dangers in order to safely convert humanure into garden soil. Written by a humanure composter with over thirty years experience, this classic work now includes illustrated, step-by-step instructions on how to build a "\$25 humanure toilet," a chapter on alternative graywater systems, photos of owner-built humanure toilets from around the world, and an overview of commercial composting toilets and systems.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (175 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Everyone should read this book, even if they have no intention or ability to use a humanure composting system. It provides a wealth of information on a subject that has been ignored for too long...human waste - how to dispose of it in a sensible, sustainable, practical, useful manner. We haven't flushed a toilet in this house in eight months, since we got this book and built our own sawdust toilet and composting box out back. We had a serious drought here this summer and our well was REAL low, but we had no problems because we weren't FLUSHING FOUR GALLONS OF CLEAN DRINKING WATER UNDERGROUND each time we went in the bathroom. I always wondered why we eliminate in water, anyway. And it doesn't stink, the compost box doesn't stink,

it's simple and straightforward and clean and the humanure toilet's time has come! Everybody who comes in our house gets dragged into the bathroom by my husband to meet our new humanure toilet! Then I drag them outside to meet my wonderful compost box! So far we've had one convert, a couple with a camp who were using a stinking old outhouse, and they are just thrilled with the idea of using a humanure toilet next summer when they move back to camp. As a bonus, our electric bill dropped substantially, just because the water pump doesn't have to kick on every time a toilet is flushed. Buy this book, read it, start using a humanure toilet, tell all your friends, lend the book to your friends, do it now! Then read Joe Jenkins' other book, "Balance Point."

The Humanure Handbook tells you how to compost it, why to compost it, and gives you all you need to know to get started. He's got a lot input on your output. If you've ever wondered why our society poops and pees in perfectly good drinking water and then spends lots of money to buy bottled water, this book's for you. This is the third copy I've purchased because I want to share it with friends.

I found Jenkins' book about 12 years ago, but I bought a commercially sold "composting" toilet to have something more official looking to show the building inspector. Therein lies the main hurdle to any sane treatment of human waste—the horror that most of society must overcome to even talk about the subject. To me this book belongs in the category of books that should start a revolution. Sadly, it won't because humans are not so enlightened. Still, for the few and the brave who honor common sense over cultural phobias, this book will send you on your way with a new sense of freedom and some damn good fertilizer.

This book combines humor, biology, humor, facts, humor, and specific instructions. Did I mention humor? ;-) It is also incredibly thought-provoking. The author points out that we are one of the few countries that defecate in our drinking water. We now have two composting toilets. The one we spent over a \$1000 for before we bought the book and the \$50 one we built after we bought the book. Guess which one is easier to deal with?!

I have not read the update version, but I did get a hold of a copy when it was still free on his site. Couldn't be much more simple than this. Poop, cover with sawdust, dump in compost pile, clean buckets, reuse. We've used in our yurt for last year and nothing but good things to say about it. Takes as much time to empty and clean 3 buckets every couple weeks as it would to clean 3 toilets.

Wonder why someone never came up with this in all the years of outhouse use!

I read this book about twelve years ago. It's a great book; informational, thought provoking and enjoyable to read. We lived off grid for about two years and used the methods outlined in the book. We used whatever the local sawmill had for sawdust (more like tiny chunks than 'dust') and mostly oak. If I recall, oak is not preferred for producing compost but our goal was primarily to dispose of our humanure in a safe and effective way. After about a year of filling one bin made from old pallets we switched to a second. Never at any time did the bins smell bad and three years later I pulled the bins apart and the result was a mildly spongy dirt-like matter that still had remnants of the sawdust. It smelled fine, mostly like dirt and oak. Of all of our (mis)adventures off-grid, this system was all benefit and no downside.

If there was a class for composting 101, then this would/should be the text book. Joseph Jenkins has done a lot of research in writing this book, and it shows brilliantly. The book reads clearly and is very understandable. It's entertaining, informative, purposeful, well referenced, and quite humorous. Me and my girlfriend have been researching on our own how to become self sufficient and off the grid. This book has definitely boosted, not only my confidence on how to handle poop, but also my girlfriend is now on board! The parts of the outcome from reading the book we did not expect were when, during dinner conversations, our families would ask us "How will you deal with your sewage?" Interestingly enough, once you've read the book, your own concerns and fears of odor, and treatment of your waste disappears. The interesting part is that just about everyone else is still stuck in fecophobia world, that is of course until they visit your house and ask what kind of "air freshener" you use for your bathroom and compliment how good your coffee smells.

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