

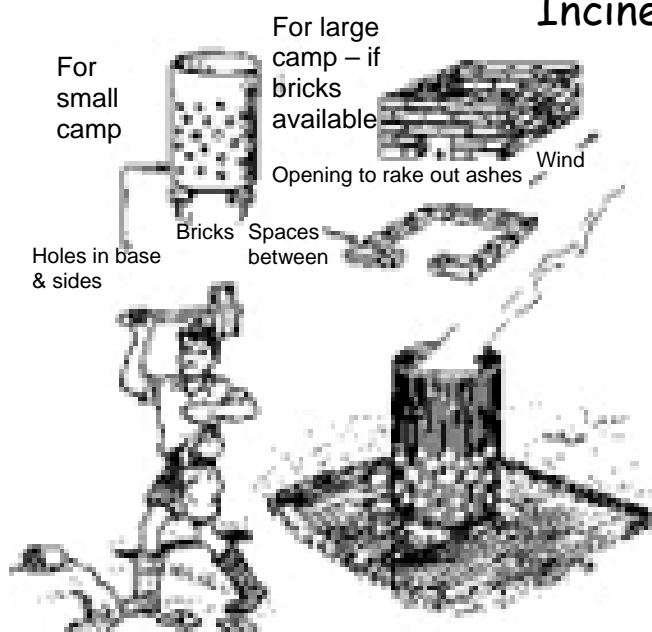
Waste Disposal

A Scout Camp should always be a clean and tidy - a clean camp means a healthy one.

All refuse which will burn should be burnt in a camp incinerator -tins should be burnt, bashed and buried.

Before going on camp you should check about local refuse collection as it maybe possible for the local council to call to your site and collect you rubbish.

Incinerators



A 5 gallon oil drum makes an excellent incinerator. Fill it with earth when making holes in sides and base with pick axe.

An even better idea is to build a rock 'chimney' on high ground. Incinerators should be built on the leeward side of the camp.

Waste disposal on camp using above ground grease pit for wet waste and plastic bag for dry waste. Foliage used in the wet waste pit should be burnt and changed daily.

Water and Wet Pits

Water and camping

Water is a very precious commodity when camping. It can be used for washing up, drinks, cooking, water fights, and cleaning. On most permanent camp sites there are usually taps well placed around the site, but even so this should not be wasted. It can be hard work carrying a large water container even a small distance, even if you are lucky to have a tap adjacent to your site. When on a hike camp or a 'farmers field' type site, you may have to walk quite a way to the water source. If you are hiking, you will probably only have small water bottles, but on a 'permanent' camp you will probably have a 5 gallon bottle or drum. These can be very heavy so it's probably best to give two scouts at a time the job - carrying with a long straight stick through the handle shares the weight out well.

Water should be kept fresh and cool at all times, as if left out in the heat you will find it tends to start to taste funny, and may even grow green algae after time.

The disposal of water can be a problem on camp, as although many taps have drains, campsite owners don't usually like it being used for waste water. The recommended method of water disposal is a Wet Pit, which filters 'solids' out of water, like beans from washing up liquid. For details of types of wet pits, read on!

What is a wet pit?

A wet pit is simply a device for disposing of your dirty water (washing up water, from pans etc). Although there is always a temptation to just 'chuck it in the hedge', all the food bits and things will attract animals - presenting several other problems. So, a wet pit acts as a filter and takes any solid matter (food bits, grease etc) out of the water and allows 'clean' water to be disposed of. There are two common methods of wet pits:

1) In the ground

Although the traditional method of creating a wet pit is this method, in many campsites these are either discouraged or banned altogether, simply because by the end of the camping season there will be so many holes in the ground there's nowhere left to put a tent! However, this method is fine if you are in, for example, a farmer's field. But ask permission first!

The method of construction for an 'in the ground' wet pit is as follows:

Dig your hole. This should be about 1ft (30cm) square, and about 18"-2' (45-60cm) deep.

Remove the turf carefully, place face-down and keep well watered. If you can find a plastic bag to put the earth on then that helps.

Once you have your hole, weave a lattice of green branches (approx 1cm apart holes) and place over the hole, and top with long grass, ferns and any other suitable undergrowth.

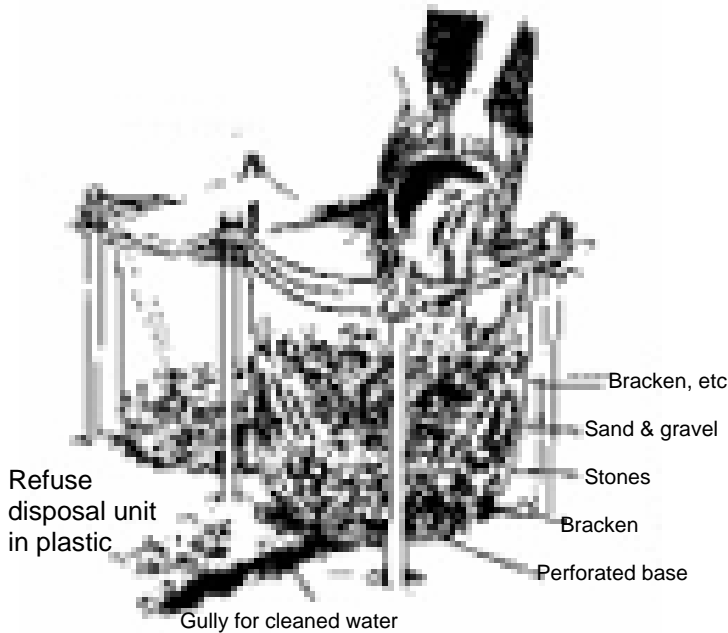
To use, simply pour the water on the top of the wet pit, and the grass etc will filter out all the solid matter.

Change the filter material regularly (at least once a day) - this can be burnt (don't throw it in the hedge as that defeats the object!). You may wish to use rubber gloves for this as it can be a bit disgusting.

If you are on a long camp, the position of the wet pit should be changed every few days.

At the end of camp (or when moving the wet pit), simply remove the lattice and undergrowth, and fill in. Replace the turf on the top and put a 'foul ground' marker (small cross made out of sticks) in the middle to warn other campers that you have used that spot.

2) Over the ground.



The materials for this are either an old bucket or a strong plastic bag (coal/fertiliser type), and four staves about 2ft (60cm) long. In their absence, you could simply use a piece of rope and tie it to a tree.

If using a bucket, drill holes in the bottom before you leave camp, and if using a plastic bag make holes in the bottom using a sharp knife. Be careful!

The method of construction for an 'over the ground' wet pit is as follows:

Knock the staves into the ground in a square, to contain the bucket or to hold the bag reasonably open. Make sure that they are firm. Then, you need to attach the bag/bucket to the poles:

For a bucket, put the bucket in the middle so the rim is resting on the top of the four poles, then tie around them so the bucket is held firmly in place.

For a plastic bag, turn a lip of around 2" (5cm) over the poles, then tie a clove hitch around each pole, securing the bag around the hole.

Then, simply fill the bag or bucket with the same grass/fern undergrowth, and use exactly the same way as an in the ground one. Make sure that you change the grass regularly otherwise it will begin to smell and attract flies.

At the end of the camp, you simply need to burn the contents, give the bucket a good clean out with hot water and disinfectant (if using a bag, it is probably better disposed of), and remove the staves.

Whichever method of construction you use, the siting of the wet pit is important. It should be well away from tents and food storage, preferably near an edge, and on the downhill end of the site, so it will drain into a place where nobody is going to walk on it.

Each patrol/fireplace should have one wet pit, and it is advisable to draw up a 'cleaning rota' for the wet pit as it is not the most popular of jobs.