

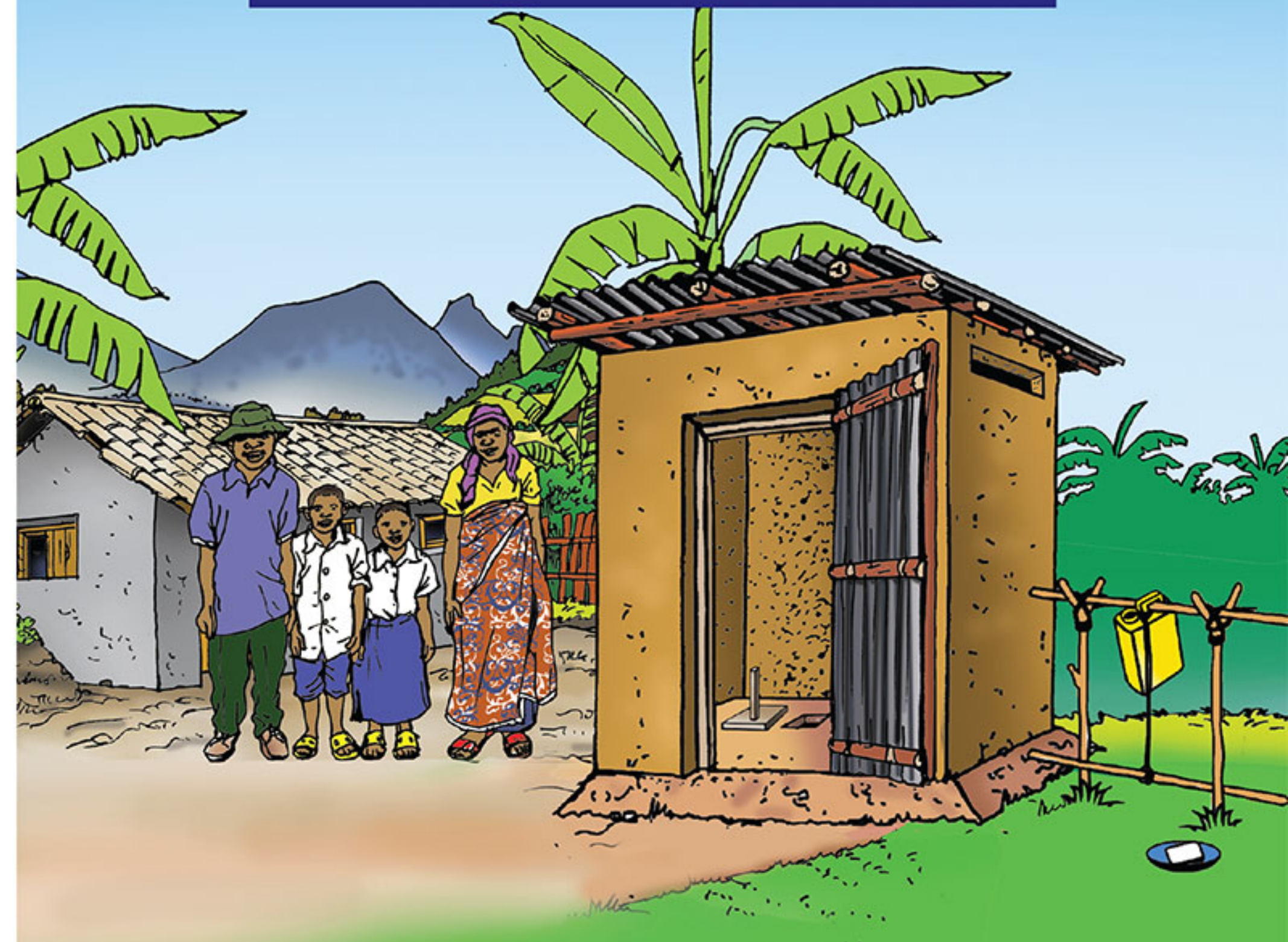
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

A LATRINE THAT MEETS OUR HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

INSTRUCTION FOR LATRINE CONSTRUCTION



July, 2018



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unicef 
for every child

FOREWORD

This booklet was developed with the aim of giving guidance to Rwandans on how to build their own improved latrines. Improving the hygiene of latrines will address different negative effects related to poor hygiene in the environment, including diseases related to unhygienic latrine use.

This booklet advises community members on new methods of building a solid latrine slab, including explanations of constructing and using a basic latrine. Rural households use ordinary pit latrines. Frequently latrines are built using fragile materials that are not durable, difficult to clean with water, and that allow easy movement of flies and other insects which could lead to outbreaks of poor hygiene-related diseases.

Therefore, an improved latrine should have a pit, a solid slab, walls, a roof and a door and be easily cleaned.

This sanitation achievement will be possible if each household upgrades or constructs an improved latrine that meet all requirement of a basic latrine. The support of government, development partners and private sector is paramount for the above to be achieved.

Behavior change communication, sensitizing people to build/upgrade and do regular cleaning of the slabs/latrines is also vital.

The Ministry of Health requests whoever reads this booklet to share the information with others especially in rural areas. The issue of keeping latrines clean is still a problem which places people at high health risk due to unhygienic latrine use. This booklet will be distributed for free from August 2018.

I wish you a healthy life.

I wish you a healthy life.

Dr. Diane Gashumba

Dr. Diane GASHUMBA
Minister of Health



INTRODUCTION

Every Household should have its own latrine.

- This booklet is an instruction for households to build or upgrade their own latrine.



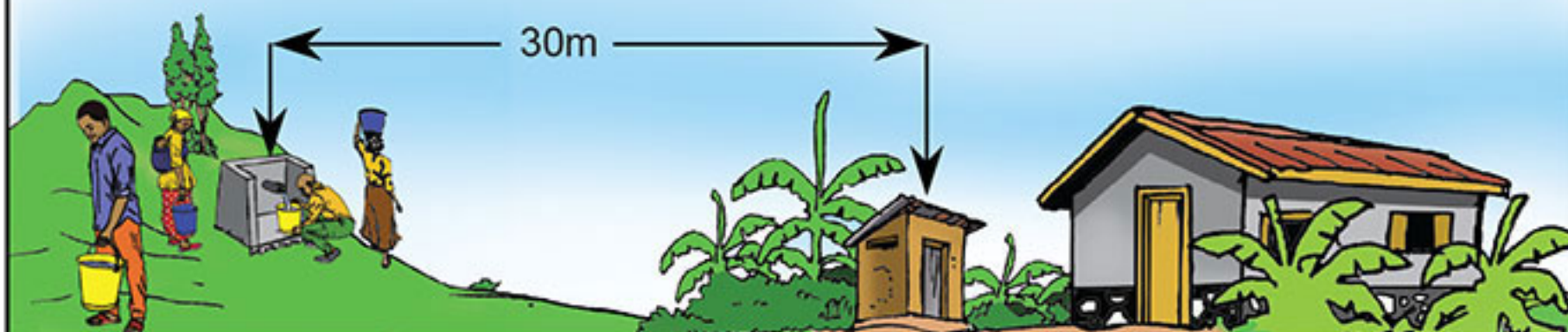
Key components of a latrine in Rwanda

A safe, hygienic and private latrine has three components.

1. **Pit:** big/large enough to last 10 years and safe enough so it does not collapse.
2. **Slab:** hygienic and removes waste from human contact and flies.
3. **Superstructure:** provides privacy and protection from rain.

Location for latrine construction

- Latrine should be at least 30 meters from a water point.

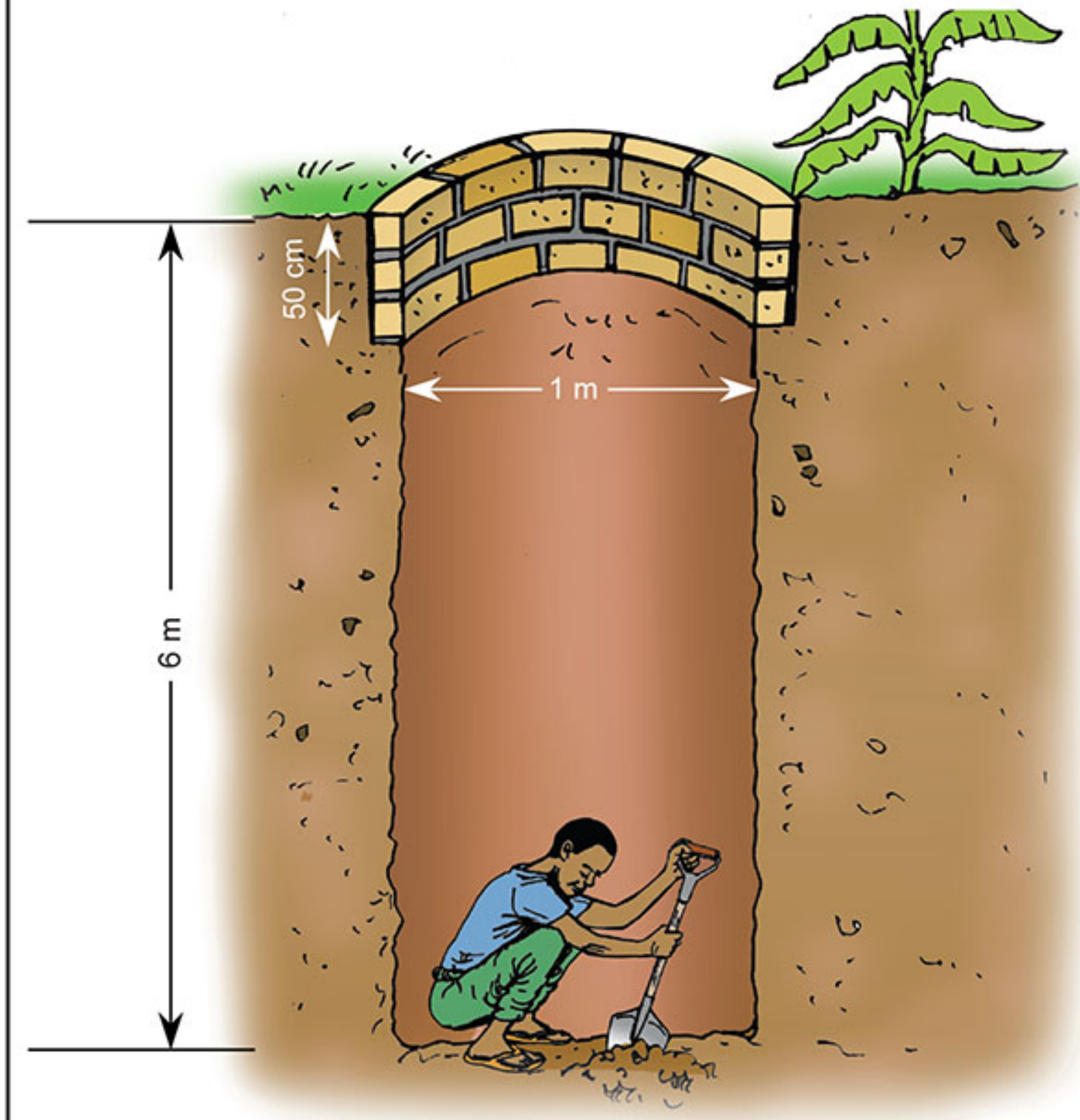


1

THE PIT

The pit should be big/large enough to last 10 years so the household does not have to rebuild too soon.

Government guidance for latrines stipulates that the pit should be 1m by 6m size.

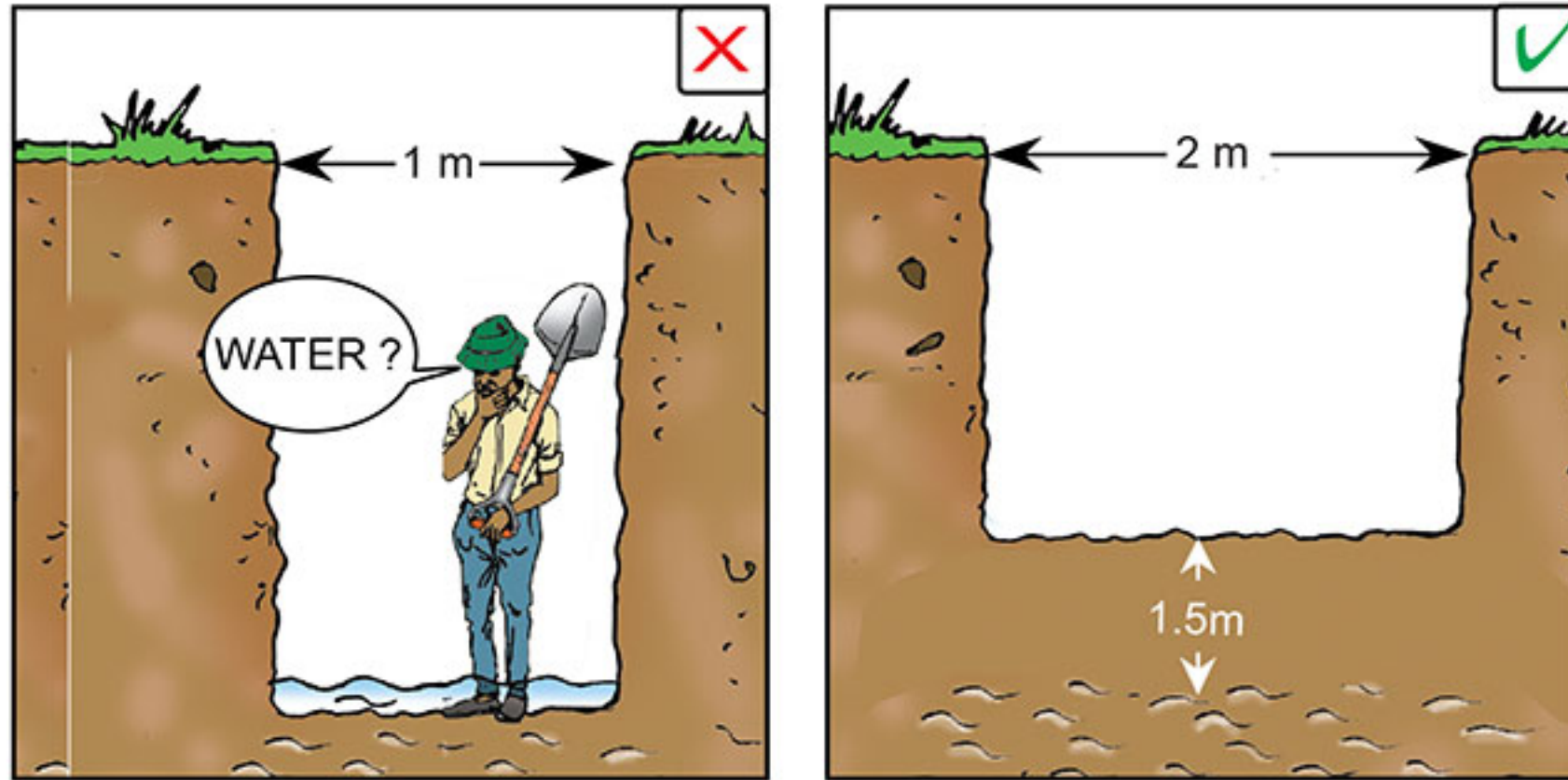


2

Sometimes digging to 6m is not possible due to environmental conditions. If digging to 6m is not possible, the pit should be big enough to last 10 years for one family.

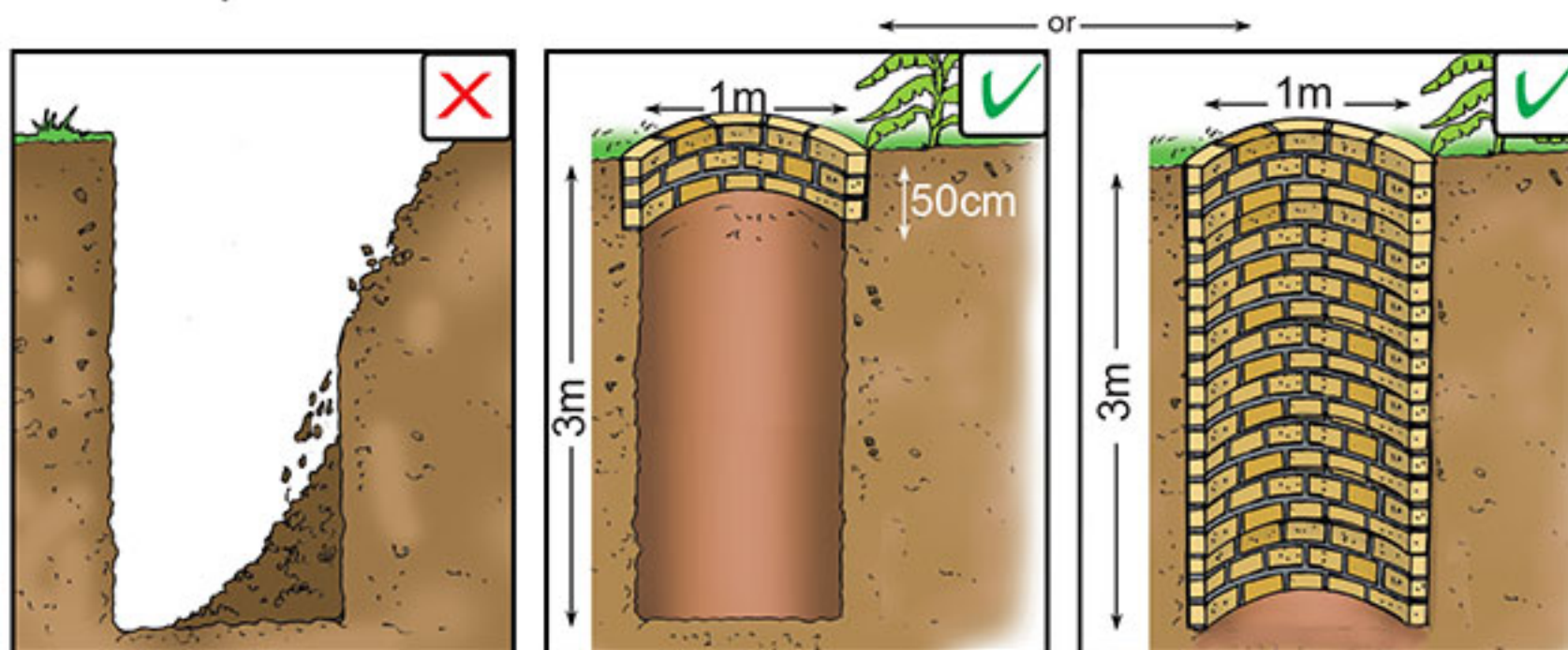
1 Depth should not go into the underground water.

- Underground water should be at least 1.5m below bottom of the pit



2 Some soil is too sandy to dig 6m. 3m may be the maximum depth due to risk of collapse.

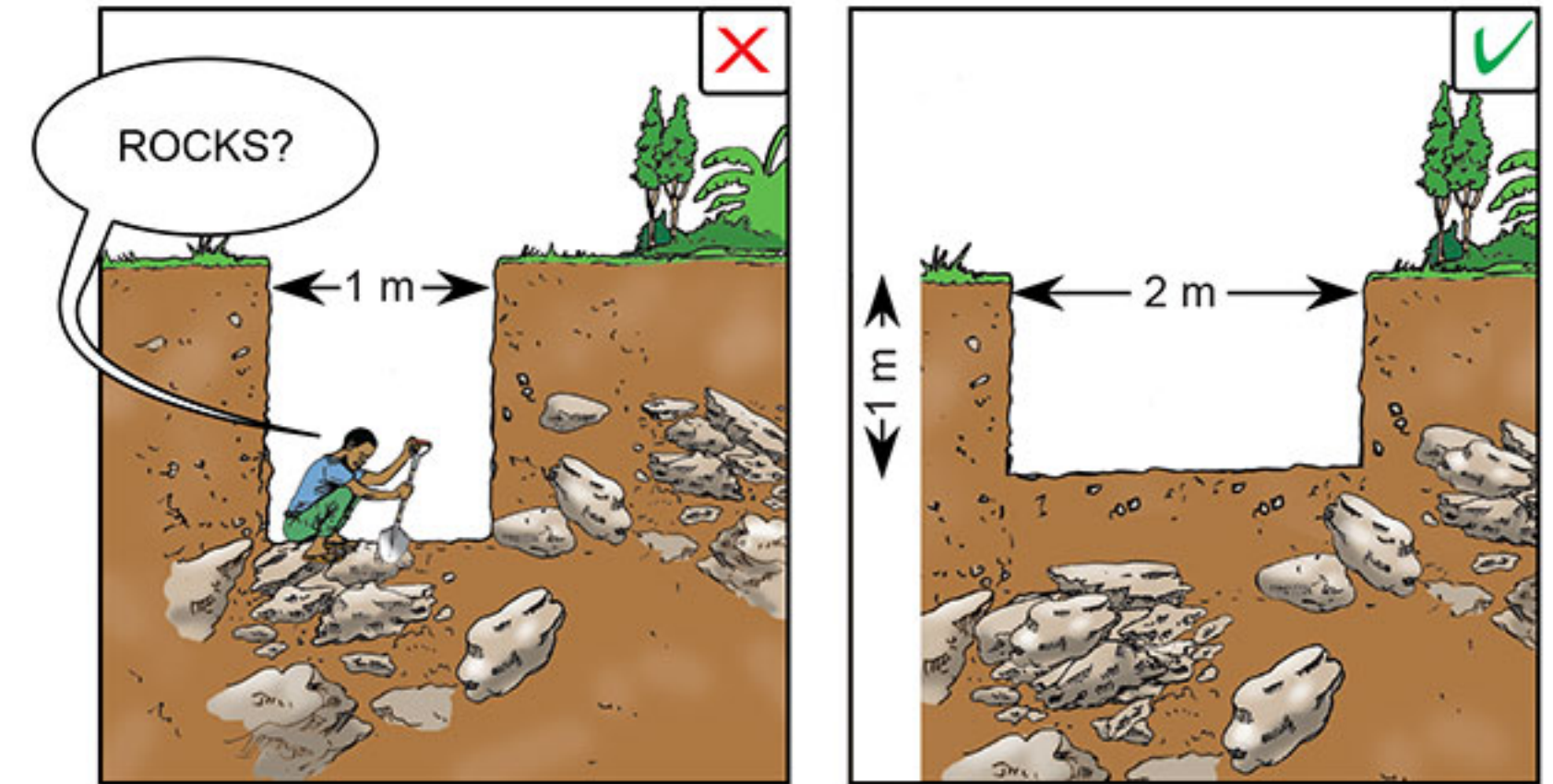
- If soil is sandy, the pit should be lined so the pit wall does not collapse.



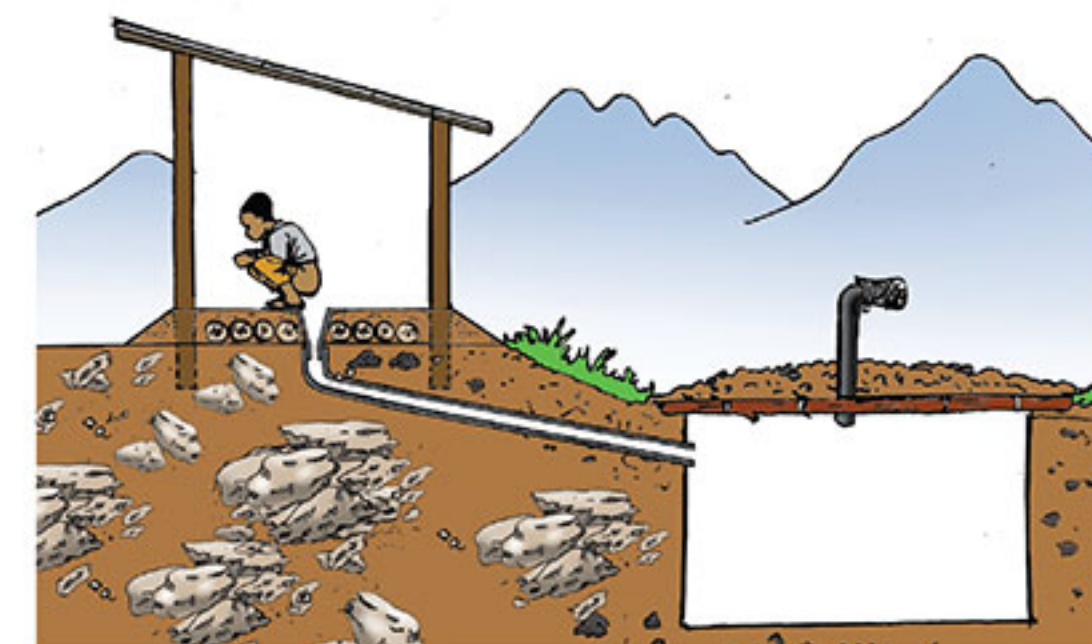
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3 Some soil is too hard to dig 6m. 1m may be the maximum depth due to rocky soil.

- Make the pit big enough to last 10 years for one family.
- If soil is rocky, the pit could be 1m wide x 3m long x 1m deep or 2m wide X 2m long x 1m deep.



- If the soil is rocky, you can offset the pit.



4

THE SLAB

The slab should cover the pit so waste does not come in contact with human or with flies.

The slab should be easy to clean and safely supported.

The safe way of covering the pit is to have the logs extend beyond the pit circle.

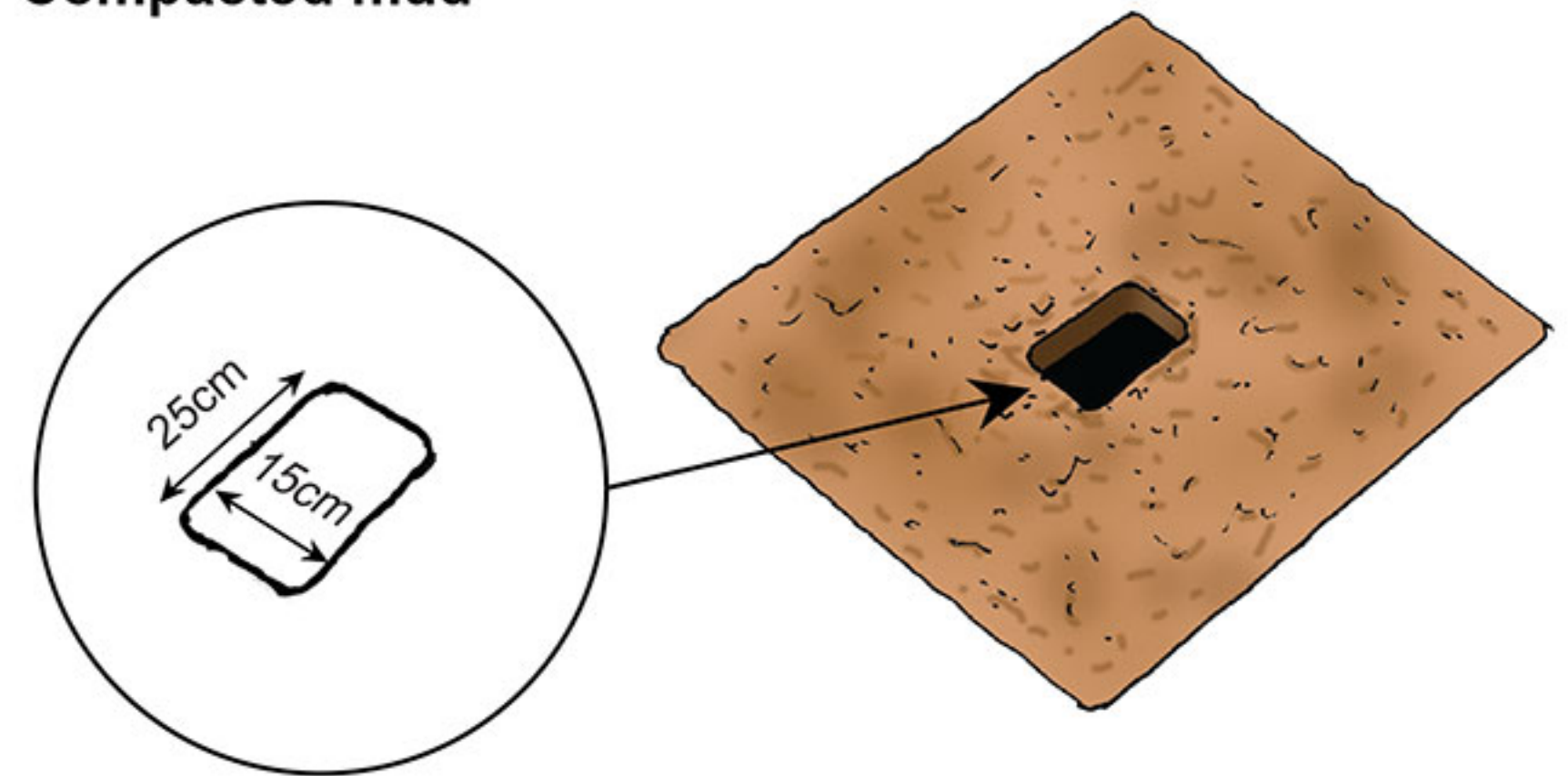


MATERIAL OPTIONS:

The logs should be covered with material so the floor is solid. The material should be selected according to the household means.

Below are some options:

Compacted mud



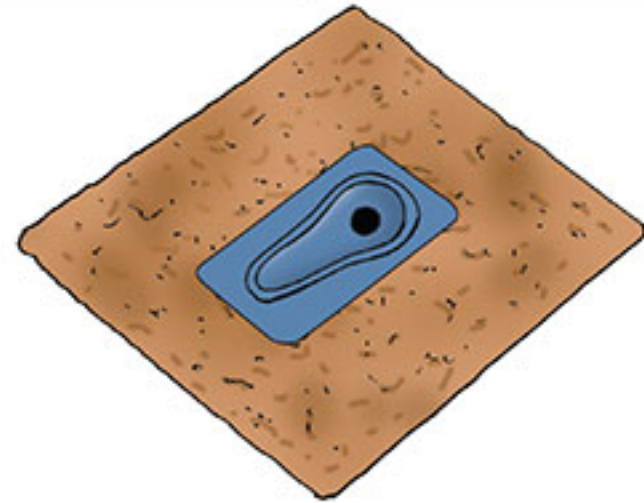
Material	Advantage	Disadvantage	Key materials needed
Mud	Easily available national wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not easy to clean Replacement on yearly basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logs Mud

Planks



Material	Advantage	Disadvantage	Key materials needed
Planks	Inexpensive and easy to purchase	Need to be replaced as they are damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logs • Two planks

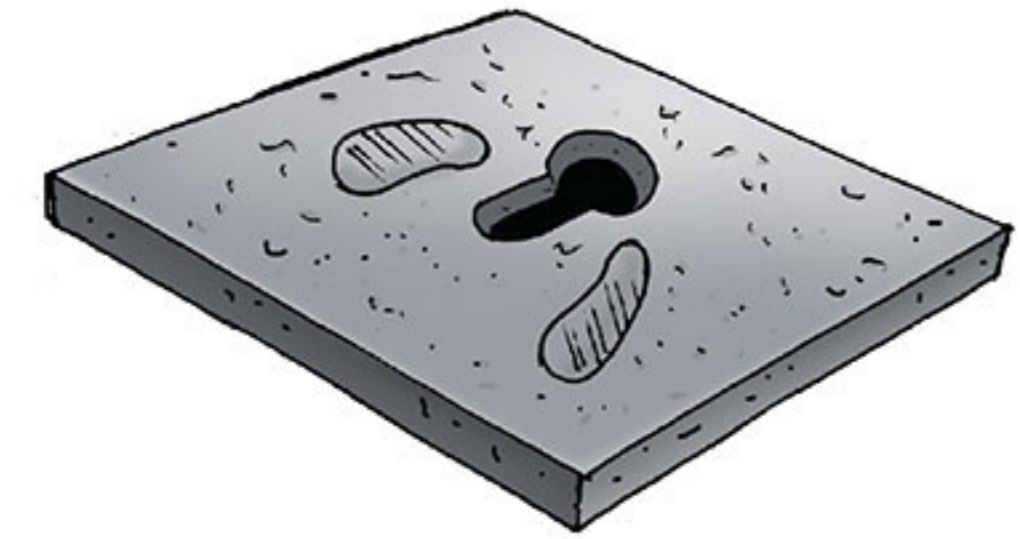
Sato pan



Sato pan is made from plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low cost • Can be put on a compacted mud slab, wooden slab or on a concrete slab 	The slab should be cleaned regularly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logs • Sato pan • Mud/Planks /Concrete Slab • Nails
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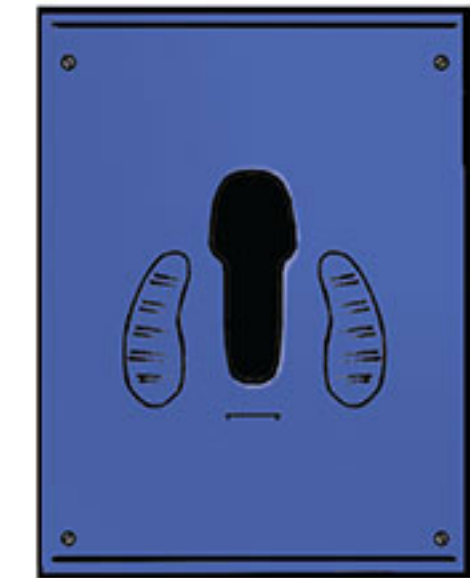
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Concrete Slab



Material	Advantage	Disadvantage	Key materials needed
Concrete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to clean • Last ten years or more 	Expensive for some people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cement • Gravel • Sand • Concrete Iron bar • Iron wire

Plastic Squat



Plastic Squat Plate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to clean • Last ten years or more 	Expensive for some people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One plastic slab • Ten iron bars
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SUPERSTRUCTURE

The superstructure provides privacy and protection from the rain.

