

Recreation Management Tech Tips

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



**National Technology &
Development Program**

November 2011

2300

1123 1306 SDTDC

TOILET CLEANING FIXES FROM THE FIELD

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The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Technology & Development Program's Recreation Steering Committee has received solutions from the field on dealing with the smells in toilet buildings and cleaning toilet risers. Two of the more viable suggestions are discussed below.

Mike McFadin from the Pacific Southwest Region (R- 5) suggests a solution for the odors in an outhouse. McFadin uses an herbicide pump sprayer and fills it with a product called Poo-Pourri. Poo-Pourri is an essential-oil based product that is designed to be sprayed on the surface of the toilet water before use. However, after he services a unit, he puts the wand in the riser and gives it a good misting. For initial application and on some of the higher use toilets, he opens the vault lid and sprays there as well. He says that just dumping a pint of the product in the riser made a notable difference in the smell. "The oils basically form a barrier on the surface to prevent odor from escaping. As things are deposited they are wrapped in the oil. It only works until the toilet paper mat starts holding things above the water, which is why I need to spray every time I service."

The benefits are better customer relations and cleaner toilets. Also, visitors are deterred from making "deposits" outside the building when they think the odors are too foul to enter the building. The link to the Poo-Pourri Web site is <http://poopourri.com/>.

Linda Bryant from the Intermountain Region (R-4) has another suggestion for keeping toilet risers clean, the Teflon approach. Bryant notes that employees do not always have access to a high pressure wash system or 5-foot-long-handled scrub brushes and it can be difficult to remove hardened fecal material on the inside of a riser.

She obtained a hand pump type sprayer designed to spray stains or oils (in a 1.5 or 2 gallon size). She loads the sprayer with inexpensive vegetable oil (biodegradable and nontoxic) and pumps up the sprayer. She sprays a coating of vegetable oil on the inside of the clean, dry risers. She thinks it works best when the riser is dry rather than wet because the oil sticks better. When it is time to clean the toilets, she says the majority of the fecal matter comes off with very little effort. She notes that an added benefit is the reduction of flies hatching in the vaults. "A fine oil slick on the water kept them from hatching."



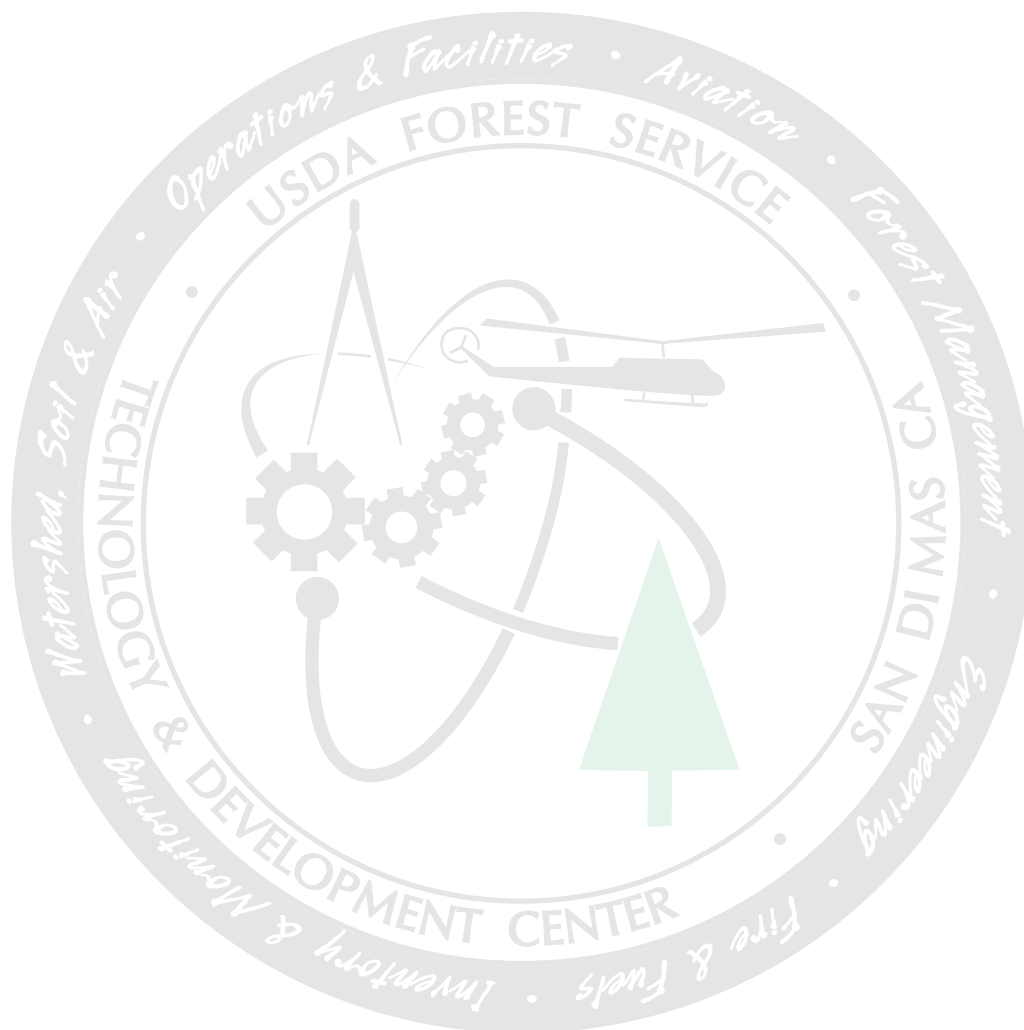
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Also, during the cold season she keeps the oil-filled sprayer inside the vehicle on the floor to prevent it from gelling or becoming too hard to apply. She says this method helps to reduce the stress on elbows and wrists since she spends less time scrubbing.

The National Technology and Development Center's national publications are available on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs/>.

Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management employees also can view videos, CDs, and National Technology and Development Center's individual project pages on their internal computer network at <http://fsweb.sdttdc.wo.fs.fed.us/>.

For additional information on cleaning forest toilets, contact Martha Willbee at SDTDC. Phone: 909-599-1267 ext 231. Email: mwillbee@fs.fed.us.



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