

***The Chisungu  
Primary School  
Water and  
Sanitation project***

***How to make  
simple hand  
washing devices***

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If health benefits are to be gained from a sanitation programme the inclusion of a hygiene and hand washing component is essential. Hand washers of many types are easy to make and cost almost nothing. They should be fitted to every low cost (or high cost) toilet made. Hand washers can be made from tin cans and plastic bottles and cups as the following pictures show.

## *Making a simple hand washer from plastic bottle*



**Cut the bottom off about one third up. Make a hole in one corner of the base near the edge with a sharp nail or sharpened piece of wire.**



**Wrap some thin wire around the bottle and hook up to part of the toilet. To use the washer it can be dipped into a container of water on the ground or some water from another bottle can be added to the washer. The water comes out slowly, but it is sufficient to wash the hands. It uses water economically. Tin cans can also be used. This is described next.**

# Making a simple hand washer from an alloy can



**Take an alloy can (coke etc) or a tin can and take the top off with a can opener. Make a hole at the edge of the base with a drill or a thin nail which is punched through the metal. Attach a wire loop around the top of the can to hold it tight.**

**Many types of tin or alloy can work well. A single hole can be punched into the bottom of the can at the edge as shown**





**Two further holes are made with the nail at the top of the can. These are made at right angles to the single hole made in the base of the can. A wire is passed through the holes and tightened up at the back of the can.**



**Then a loop is made at the top of the wire. Wire is looped around the can to hold it firm. A loop is made at the end of the wire to hang it on part of the toilet structure.**

**A water container of some sort is then built under the hand washing device. This can be a bucket, mounted in a concrete base or a traditional pot.**





**Hang the can on a part of the roof structure of the toilet so that it can be taken off. Place a bucket or container of water under the hand washing device so the tin can be dipped into the bucket to collect the water. Hang the tin up again and the water will run out slowly so the hands can be cleaned.**

# Soap helps to wash hands properly, but wood ash is also good if soap is not available



Soap can be hung from a wire or string also attached to the roof. A hole can be drilled through the soap and the soap is held in place. Otherwise the soap can be kept in a safe place. Wood ash can also be used to wash the hands. A little pot with a lid can be placed near the hand washer. These cans can last a long time.

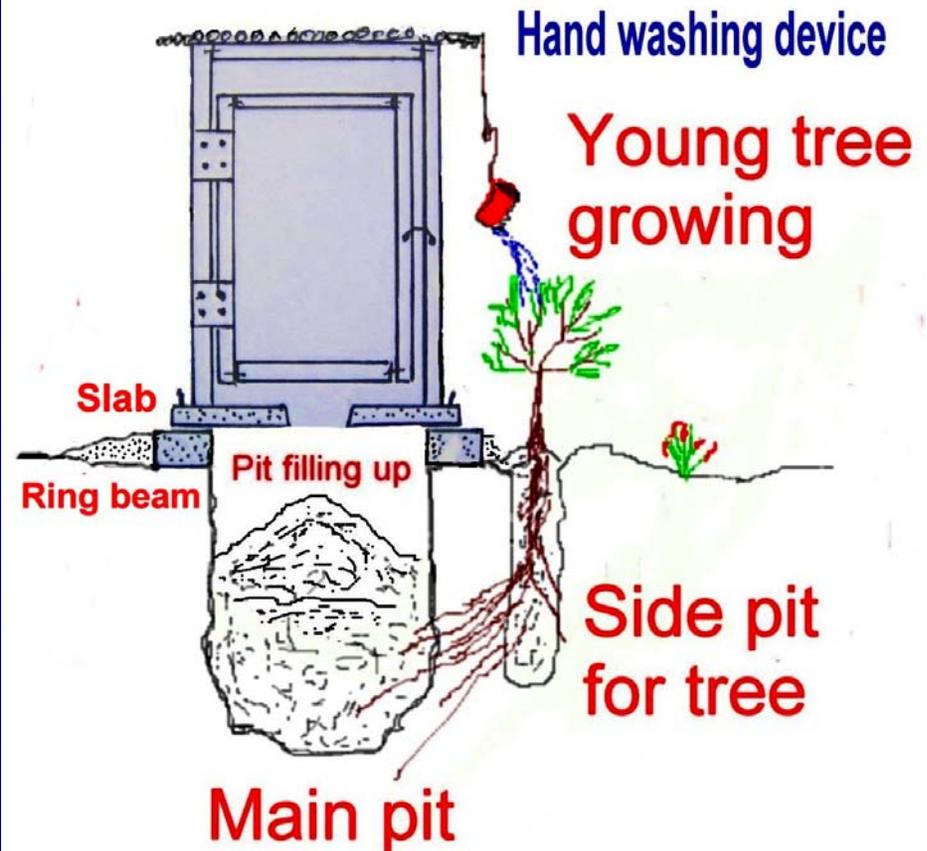
**A flower or herb garden can be placed below the hand washing device.**



***These add decoration and colour to the toilet***

**Water falling  
from the hand  
washer can  
also be used  
to trees**

## Arborloo in use



# Promoting hand washing



**Pupils from the Chisungu school exhibited their method of making hand washing devices at a Mukuvisi Woodland public event where many schools attended. The method proved popular and large numbers of hand washers were made and given away to pupils from other schools. By doing this a knowledge of the simple method was spread widely**

# Hand washing

*Every toilet should be fitted with a hand washing device.  
They can be made at low cost from tins and cans and  
gourds etc.*

**NO TOILET IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A  
HANDWASHING DEVICE**

