New Day – new toilet
Taking a brick toilet apart and rebuilding – in a day

Old

new

Peter Morgan

Brick toilets are thought of as permanent – they are not!

If the right design is chosen it is possible to take a brick toilet apart and rebuild it in a day

This power point shows how a brick toilet was taken apart and rebuilt in a day.

What is the best brick toilet to recycle:

*Best uses a door and rounded shape

*Weak cement mortar or traditional mortar used for brickwork.

*Vent pipe and roof can be taken apart and refitted easily.

*Door system easily moved.

Spiral shaped structures are far more difficult to take apart and rebuild

The time:

4th Oct 2010

The old toilet was full. It required to be moved to a new site

The day before a pit had been dug and lined in preparation

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.25am

The roof is removed

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.29am

Start to remove bricks from structure

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.37am

Most of the bricks have been removed. They are also being cleaned

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.43am

The two treated gum poles holding the door frame are removed

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.44am

The poles and door system are removed

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.47am

The concrete slab is removed and rolled to new site

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.25am

Leaves are added to new pit system

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 8.58am

The slab is fitted in a bed of weak cement mortar over the new pit

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 9.23am

Holes are drilled with an earth auger for the door posts to be fitted.

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 9.26am

The door posts are fitted in front of the slab

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 9.30am

The door posts are made straight to fit at the correct distance on each side of the door.

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 9.37am

Brick laying starts. The bricks are laid around the rim of the slab or on a brick foundation around the slab. They connect on to the two door posts.

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 11.55am

Half the brickwork is complete

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 1.38pm

The brickwork is almost complete

Date 5th Oct 2010

The mortar for bonding the bricks is made by mixing anthill soil (one part) to sandy soil (2 parts). This is traditional mortar.

Date 5th Oct 2010

Traditional mortar is an excellent bonding material for bricks if suitable anthill soil and sandy soil is available. Otherwise use a cement mortar of 20 parts pit sand to one part Portland cement.

Date 5th Oct 2010

In this case new rubber hinges have been fitted and a new layer of sacking (hessian) on the door

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 2.12pm

The brickwork is complete and the door smartened up. Doors can be made of wood or a timber frame with suitable covering.

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 2.41pm

The roof is now fitted. In this case it is made from poles and cement filled hessian. Wooden brandering and tin sheet is preferred.

The roof timbers are secured to the poles

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 2.49pm

The vent pipe is then fitted back through the roof and onto the concrete slab over the vent pipe hole.

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time:3.37m

The flooring is improved around the rim of the slab

Date 5th Oct 2010

Time: 4.00pm

The job is finished Once the cement work around the slab is cured – the next day – the toilet can be put to use.

Recycling

This method is quite fast and easy. School pupils are able to brick up the structure in this way. The toilet itself is recycled. On pits where compostable material is also added (such as leaves), the toilet can be alternated between pits at periods between one year and 5 years. Good toilet compost can be removed from the pits which has great value in the garden

Tree planting

Useful trees can also be planted around the toilet to extract the nutrients formed in the pits.

School activity – build a toilet!

The method described here can be built by senior primary school pupils. It is a satisfying and rewarding activity.