

**Following a major disaster, bathroom facilities may not be available if water and sewer lines have been disrupted. Because cleanliness is essential to maintaining good health, it is important to know how to improvise emergency sanitation facilities.**

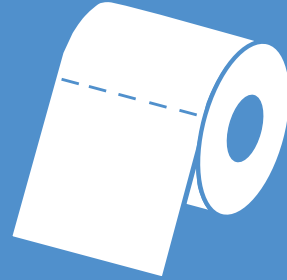
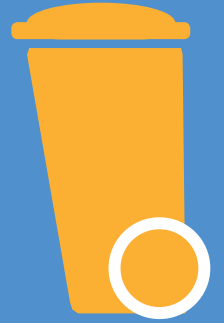


**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**

**Emergency Management**  
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4900  
P.O. Box 34018  
Seattle, WA 98124-4018



**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities** **Emergency  
Sanitation**



## Have emergency sanitation supplies on hand

- ▶ medium-size plastic bucket with tight lid
- ▶ plastic garbage bags and ties (heavy duty)
- ▶ absorbent material, cat litter or shredded newspaper
- ▶ household chlorine bleach
- ▶ soap, liquid detergent
- ▶ rubber or vinyl gloves
- ▶ toilet paper
- ▶ antiseptic towelettes
- ▶ hand sanitizer



## Building a makeshift toilet

Line a medium-size plastic bucket with a garbage bag. (If the sewage lines are broken but the toilet bowl is usable, place the plastic garbage bag around the toilet bowl.) Other options may include a bucket with a tight fitting lid, or a camping toilet.



## Sanitizing Waste

After each use, pour a disinfectant such as a solution of 10 parts water and 1 part bleach into the container to reduce odor. Cover the container tightly when not in use.



## Disposing of Waste

It is recommended to use an absorbent material such as cat-litter, sawdust, shredded newspaper to absorb liquids. All bags should be securely closed and fastened with a tie-wrap. Then double bag and securely close. Handle-tie type bags are not liquid tight and should not be used without being additionally secured.

Store any filled bags where they cannot be accessed by people, and are protected from rats and vermin. During emergencies only, they may be disposed of with other household waste and garbage.



Consider using recycling or yard-waste container for temporary storage of waste, as they will protect against rats and vermin.



Emergency Public Information will include additional instructions about waste disposal.

***Outdoor pit latrines, waste incineration or burial, and most other temporary toilet sites, are not legal nor recommended. There is too great a risk of vermin and accidental human contact with the waste.***

## Cleaning and Disinfectants

Regularly wipe down all surfaces with disinfectant to reduce exposure risks. The best choice is a solution of one part liquid chlorine bleach to ten parts of water. Wash hands with soap and water, or use a hand-sanitizer after using the toilet or handling any bags of waste.

