



The Toilet Papers: Recycling Waste and Conserving Water

By Sim Van Der Ryn

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A classic is back in print! One of the favorite books of 1970s back-to-the-landers, *The Toilet Papers* is an informative, inspiring, and irreverent look at how people have dealt with their wastes through the centuries. In a historical survey, Van der Ryn provides the basic facts concerning human wastes, and describes safe designs for toilets that reduce water consumption and avert the necessity for expensive and unreliable treatment systems. *The Toilet Papers* provides do-it-yourself plans for a basic compost privy and a variety of graywater systems.

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Editorial Review

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A classic is back in print! One of the favorite books of the back-to-the-land movement, **The Toilet Papers** provides an informative and irreverent look at how people have dealt with human wastes over the centuries, and at what safe designs are available today that reduce water consumption and avert the necessity for expensive treatment systems. Van der Ryn provides homeowner plans for several types of dry toilets, compost privies, and greywater systems, and also discusses the history and philosophy of turning organic wastes into a rich humus, linking us to the fertility of the soil and ensuring our ultimate well-being. Van der Ryn is a former architect, and his designs for compost privies are downright elegant as well as environmentally sound.

About the Author

Sim Van der Ryn has been a teacher, writer, researcher, and practitioner of design for forty years. A leading authority on ecologically sustainable architecture and design, he is Emeritus Professor of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1961. As California's State Architect in the 1970s, he initiated landmark programs in energy-efficient building and environmentally appropriate technologies. His innovative designs for homes, sustainable communities, retreat centers, schools, and commercial buildings have received many awards and been widely published.

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