



# Waste Management At Camp

How to stay clean, healthy and  
odour free



## Don't Make Waste

Good waste management relies on planning and foresight. Don't take waste, don't make waste and then you won't have a problem at camp.



- Minimise waste in every way:
- Remove packing materials
- Buy without wrapping
- Use larger containers (better packing to content ratio)
- Take less
- Use durable items
- Re-use and recycle where ever possible

## Risks

Waste at camp presents real risks to the camper and the leaders unless well managed. You need to plan and operate around the risks appropriately

Key risks are:

1. Disease
2. Pollution of ground or water
3. Noxious odours
4. Accidents with sharps or poisons
5. Falling and tripping
6. Legal risks



## The Law

Waste disposal is highly regulated in the UK. While private land has some exceptions, you should assume that all waste is regulated and find out the local rules as well as be aware of national rules



- You cannot transport commercial waste off-site from commercial sites
- Some wastes are tightly controlled and you do need advice (animal waste, meat, plastics, oils ...)
- Bonfires are not regulated on private land, but pollution is.
- Extreme care with burning some things that are poisonous, noxious or explosive

## Recycle

Recycling is now obligatory in most sites, and is good practice everywhere.



- Buy recyclable materials
- Check site rules before and on arrival
- Bring bags or boxes to transport recycling
- Use local recycling
- Train Scouts to recycle

## Disposal

Sites may have waste centres, most do. If not, find the local council site and ask for the local rules. Farmers may offer waste disposal, but they may not cater for your camp wastes



- Create an 'expected wastes list'
- Check local rules
- Scout the site and local area
- Bring transport materials, bags, boxes, marker pens to remove waste in
- Removing waste from the site 'little and often' is a recipe for a cheerful, clean and safe camp!

## Waste water

Camps generate large volumes of waste water, and we have to clean it and treat it before it gets into the environment. We need to start with knowing what and how much we will make



- Identify need for waste water disposal from all sources: washing, showers, cooking, cleaning, laundry.
- Estimate the volumes of waste (3 gallons per person per day on a light camp, up to 30 gallons with showers, laundry and central cooking)
- Plan to dispose of the peak flow safely

## Pits and Filters

We need to give nature a hand with waste water. Nature will do a lot to decontaminate water if we let it. There are some basic principles to bear in mind first



- Stay 100m away from water courses, wells, lakes and sea.
- Filter solids from water
- Give some degree of chemical ‘trapping’ to remove the worse toxins and detergents
- Allow slow natural seepage into the soil
- Keep it aerated and well drained, never flooded or saturated

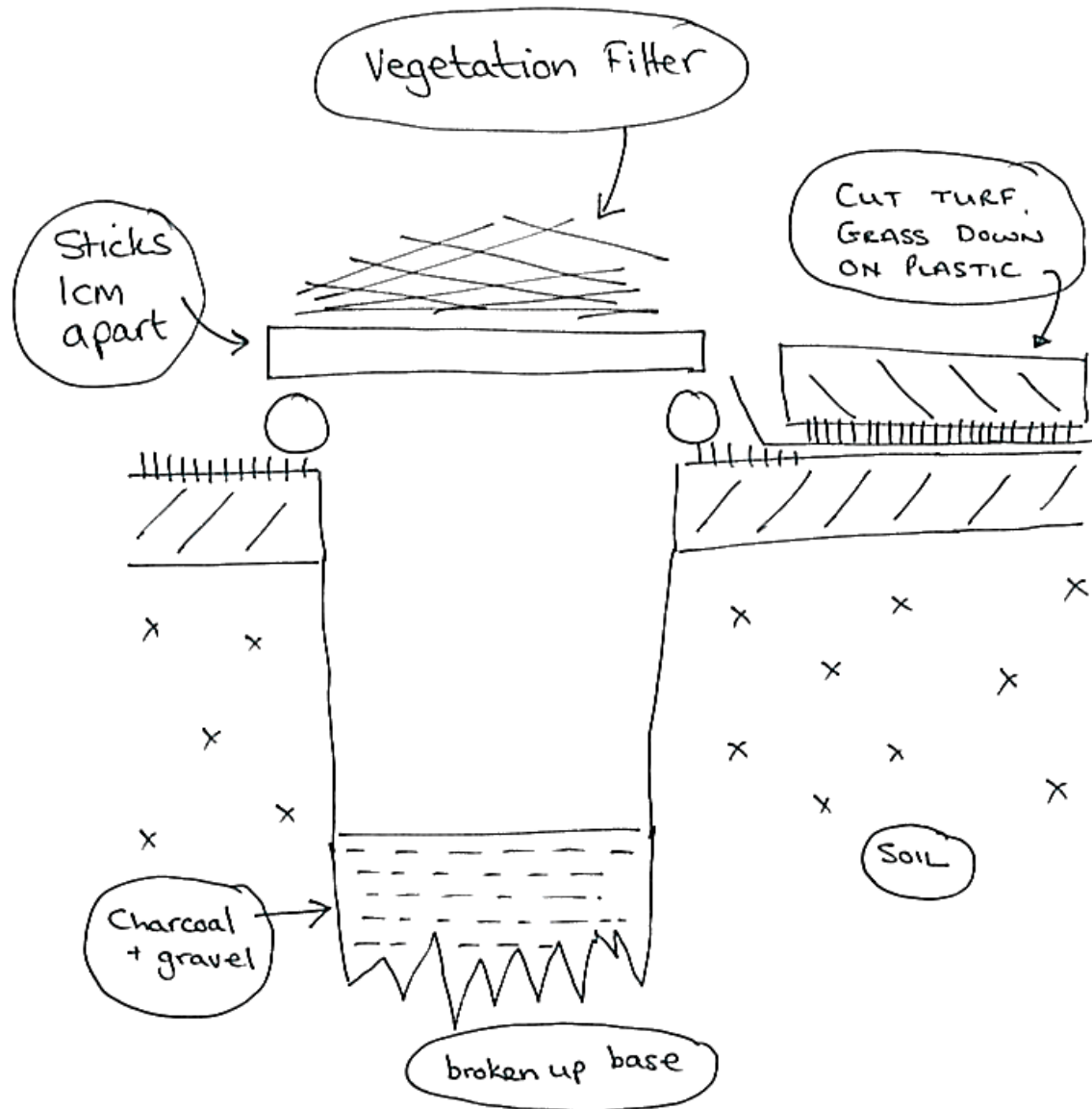
## The Pits

Over or under ground? Both sorts of wet pit work well. Over ground pits are quick, easy and good for short camps. Soil pits, properly used, are highly effective but take a little more effort



- Make sure it is safely located and marked
- Make it big enough (1m \* 1m \* 1m on loam will drain 25 washing-up bowls a day)
- Sandy soils 2x as fast as loams, Loams 2x as fast as clays (roughly)
- Line it with charcoal
- Part fill with filter material (paper scrunchies, gravel, grass)
- Cover with strong, effective, filter cap that can be changed daily and burned

# Wet Pit



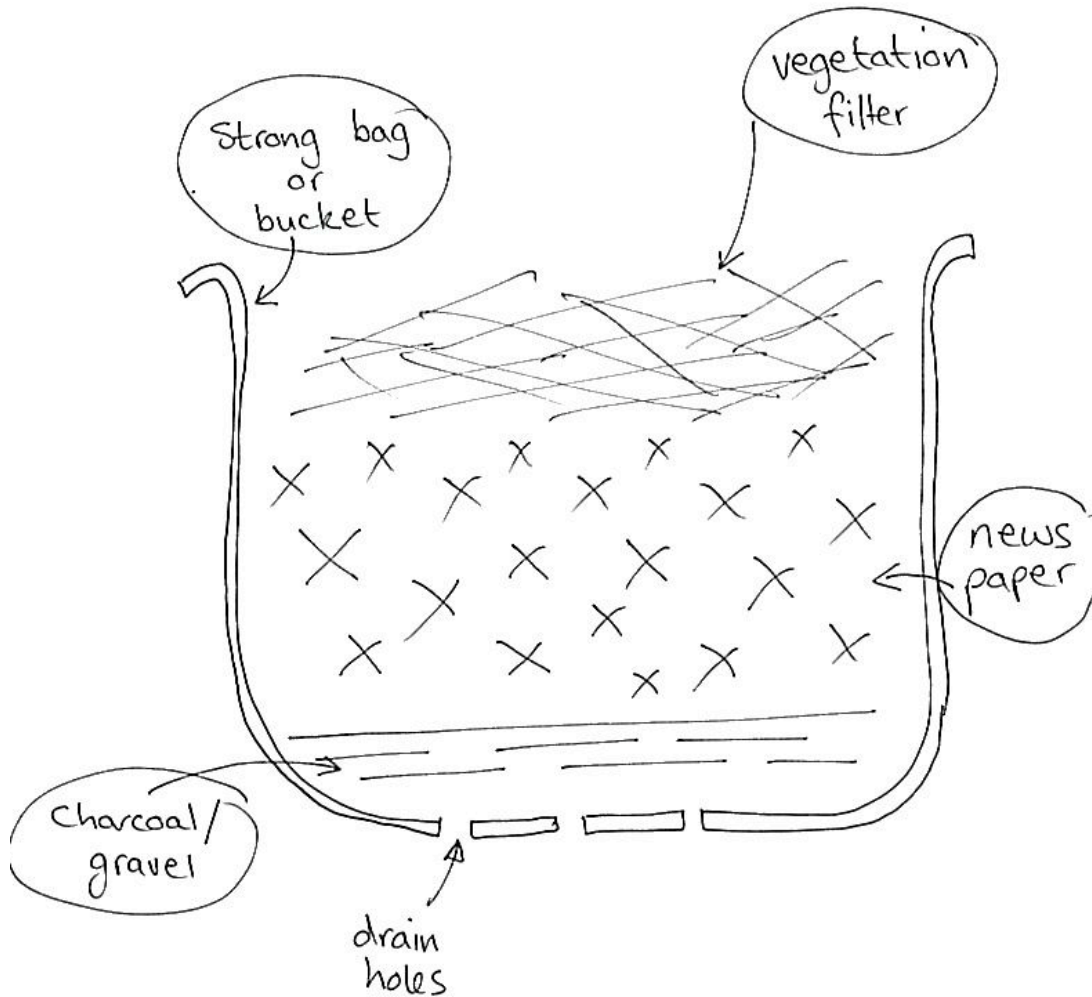
## Bag or Bucket Filters

Quick solutions to waste water, or a good 'pre-filter' for soil pits can be made with bags, buckets or cans. They can be placed near the point of use, and are safe in small volume sites.



- Same structure: physical filter that can be burned or bagged to remove it, internal filter of paper or grass, charcoal or gravel layer, drainage holes
- Make sure drainage water is soaked away safely
- These filters are low volume if used alone – do not flood them, drip feed them
- Carry off as food waste when finished

# Bag or Bucket Filter



## Cleaning Up

You must leave the site clean, and with neither detectable pollution nor any site hazards



- Fill pits and fill them firmly
- Replace turf
- Mark foul ground securely
- Check soil and water nearby
- Carry off filter and wastes
- (the paranoid take before and after photos ...)

## Wrap up



- Plan ahead
- Don't make waste, especially water
- Recycle
- Know the local rules
- Burn carefully
- Pits and filters!
- Pits and filters need daily care
- Inspect often, act quickly to any contamination