Pit Toilet Installation Guidelines

1. Determining pit toilet placement
    a. Ideally, the back of your pit toilet building should face south and have a minimum clear radius of 25’ from the vent pipe. By not having any trees or other large obstructions in this radius it will help your pit toilet vent properly using the natural heating of the sun and the black vent pipe to draw air up the vent pipe and out of the vault.
    b. Picking a location that is as flat as possible will help you more easily meet ADA requirements for access to your pit toilet.
    c. Delivery and setting requirements should also be kept in mind not only at the site you have picked but getting to the site. You will be required to provide access for a truck carrying your pit toilet and a crane. The access road must have a minimum height of 14’ 6” and a minimum width of 14’. It must also be able to accommodate a 78’ vehicle and its increased turning radius. The site you have picked for your pit toilet must be able to have both the crane and the truck carrying the pit toilet in it at the same time. This can generally be done provided two sides of the excavated area are accessible to within 4’ of the hole and relatively level. Keep in mind any overhead obstructions (electrical wires, tree limbs, etc.) may impede the cranes ability to set the pit toilet.
    d. If you have trouble meeting these placement guidelines please contact us so that we may work with you to accommodate your needs. Additional charges may apply.
2. Excavation
    a. In general, you should plan to have your finished floor height 2” – 6” above the existing grade. Surrounding elevations, ADA accessibility, rain water runoff, and other site specific criteria will help you determine your finished floor elevation.
    b. The excavation for the vault should be a minimum of 1’ larger on all four sides. The bottom of the hole should be level to slightly concave in the middle so that the vault walls can adequately support the building. Proper bedding material is also important to ensure a long service life of your pit toilet against adverse settling. Use 4” of sand or granular material overlying a firm and uniform base. The vault should not bear on large stones or rock edges. Sites with silty soils, high water tables or other poor bearing characteristics must have specially designed bedding and bearing surfaces. Proper compaction of the underlying soils is critical to eliminate later settlement. Worker safety is of primary importance and proper excavation methods should be used.
3. Backfilling
    a. Backfill should be placed in uniform layers 12” thick. Backfill should be free of any stones larger than 3” in diameter or other debris.