



Critical Talking Points for Post-Disaster Messaging to the Public

We just experienced a strong earthquake. Some area residents may need to prepare now to live without a working toilet for weeks or months.

This is critically important. Disease is spread when human waste – POO – is not handled and stored safely.

The best option is a twin bucket system: one 5-gallon bucket for POO and one for PEE. Separating PEE lessens volume and odor, making bucket contents safer and easier to store and dispose.

- For the POO bucket, residents will want to line the bucket with heavy duty 13-gallon garbage bag and cover each use with bark chips or sawdust, leaves, grass clippings, shredded paper, etc. to help dry the waste.
- The bucket should be filled no more than half full, then the waste double-bagged and stored separately from other garbage and away from food and water. It is important to secure waste from pets, flies, rats.
- The PEE bucket doesn't need a liner. Use the PEE bucket and add water to contents if possible. Place used toilet paper in the POO bucket. When the PEE bucket is partially full, pour the contents on lawn, garden or ground.

Another key to staying healthy is washing hands with soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60% or higher concentration).

Residents will want to watch for instructions from public agencies on how to get rid of the stored bags of waste.