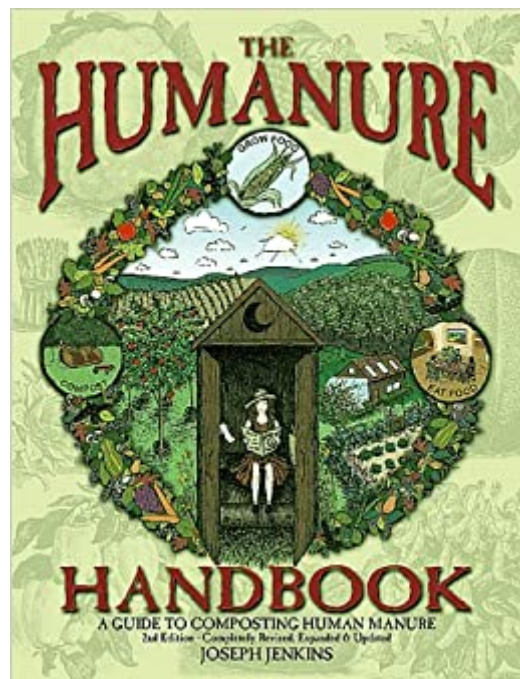




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# The Humanure Handbook: A Guide To Composting Human Manure, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

The most comprehensive, up-to-date, and thoroughly researched book on the topic of composting human manure available anywhere. It includes a review of the historical, cultural, and environmental issues pertaining to "human waste," as well as an in depth look at the potential health risks related to humanure recycling, with clear instructions on how to eliminate those dangers in order to safely convert humanure into garden soil. Written by a humanure composter with over twenty years experience, this classic work now includes illustrated, step-by-step instructions on how to build a "\$25 composting toilet." Also new to the second edition is a chapter on alternative graywater systems; color photos of humanure compost gardens; a review of U.S. state regulations pertaining to compost toilets, graywater systems, and constructed wetlands; and a list of compost toilets sources worldwide. The humor throughout the book, however, remains execrable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...outrageous humor and brilliant, diligent research." "This is one book that could save the world!" -- Permaculture Drylands Journal"Finally we have a comprehensive book on recycling human excrement without chemicals, high technology or pollution." "Well-written, practical...thoroughly researched." -- Whole Earth Review"Jenkins provides a convincing case that human waste can and should be a safe composting material." -- Mother Earth News"The Humanure Handbook clearly explains, in a breezy, amusing and well-illustrated format, everything-you-need-to-know-to-bring-the-out-house-in-house." -- Earth Island Journal"almost

certain to become a classic in its field." "This book should be required reading, and not only for homesteaders." -- Countryside Journal

Why did I write this book, anyway? Probably because I have personally recycled all of my family's humanure since 1979 using very simple methods. The resulting compost has always been used in our food garden. We have never produced any sewage from our home. Instead, all of our organic residues are carefully recycled by composting and are then returned to the soil, humanure included, thereby maintaining the fertility of our food gardens and eliminating organic waste altogether.

I never thought I'd be sold on the idea. I'm embarrassed to admit I've been making fun of my humanure-composting sister over the last two years, because I thought the idea was too "out there". However about 10 pages into this book, I was sold. Not only for the sustainability and the kindness-to-the-Earth factor, but I finally will be able to make enough compost to use in my garden!!!! To all of you gardeners out there lamenting where you'll get your next manure fix for the spring, look no further! You and your family are all you need to make huge amounts of awesome compost, along with carbon & time, ofcourse! All of the other composting books I ever read never made sense to me with their dire warnings and restrictions - you can't compost this, it's not safe to do that. I mean does the Earth say - sorry, no dairy or dog poop allowed - take that nasty stuff to the landfill? There is no such thing as 'waste' in a whole ecosystem. Heck, I was even able to convince my husband to poop in a bucket, which is a miracle in and of itself. The other great part about humanure composting is that it makes so much spiritual sense. In order for us to be sustained by the Earth, we have to close the circle, and give her back the bio-resources that we generate, not pretend that we don't produce any manure just like all animals, and bury it/burn it/send it off to a landfill, thereby breaking the chain of life. This concept is the key to sustaining EVERY person on this Earth, at 7 billion and counting. If all of our manure is giving back to the soil in a safe and sustainable way, there is no reason why we cannot build back our lost soils and forests and feed everyone, not one person excluded. If Asia can feed millions on the same land for 1000s of years on unsafe 'night soil', the United States can completely restore its once fertile landscape by utilizing us humans as the manure machines we are!

A most edifying piece about recycling human waste. Wouldn't it be nice to actually use human waste? Wouldn't it be nice not to use HUGE quantities of water just to get human waste out of our sight? This book shows how it can be done and with great benefit to mankind. Human waste is feared mostly for

its germs; but they are living things and all living things die. So will the human pathogens in human waste. And left behind will be very usable fertilizer. What a deal. If our society could go from septic tanks and sewers to human waste composting we would rid ourselves of huge amounts of leaching contaminants and polluting sewage, acquire a very real source of valuable fertilizer and relieve a huge stress on our water resources. Read all about it. It is fascinating and a totally viable technology.

Is it too much to say "one of the greatest gardening books of all time"? I still reference this great piece of work, regularly, and one of my good friends took it to a new level as a source of inspiration for his own book called All My Secrets of Organic Gardening. Mr. Jenkins is admirably expert in this subject: the history, the chemistry, how to do it, how to understand it and not be a fecophobe, how to use this knowledge. Mr. Jenkins' rarefied humor shines through for every "nugget" that the critics can "dig up." Highly, highly recommended for every household.

Great read. A must for every human. Endless entertainment from a subject one would not think as interesting. Read and pass it on! No more waste, compost!

Human effluent has been the nemesis of most societies for centuries and despite all of our current technological prowess, we have yet to intelligently address one of the most basic biological functions of our existence. And our effluent is backing-up on us, big time. After "defecating in our drinking water" via the conventional toilet, as author Joseph Jenkins succinctly points out, it then gets transported with little or inadequate processing right into our ground water, waterways and/or oceans where it reeks havoc on the environment and contaminates future drinking water. And this is an earmark of a "civilized" society??? The Humanure Handbook provides a wealth of thoroughly researched, hands-on experience and scientific data that demonstrates that after a natural process called "thermophilic" bacterial digestion, which occurs in a compost bin and where all pathogens are killed, excreta is then converted to a valuable nutrient for agriculture and thereby completing a full-circle life cycle. Most importantly, effluent can then be kept out of our drinking water and not treated or referred to as an undesirable "waste product". The information is conveyed in a humorous, folksy, down-to-earth easy to understand style along with drawings, charts, tables, photos and a wealth of resource info for further research. Jenkins' website has a forum for sharing more info, experiences and to answer any and all questions in the process of humanuring and constructed wetland gray water treatment. The info in this book should be required study for every human on the planet- it is so basic and fundamental, yet so vitally important for the health of our precious planet

and the myriad life forms it supports. Joseph Jenkins has put together a monumental guide to help cleanup Earth, re-invigorate common sense and I should think he is worthy of a Nobel Prize for his efforts! As it stands, Jenkins' book has won many other accolades and awards and I shall add my heartfelt THANKS! to him, his family, and their collaborators!

This book improved our lives as soon as I finished it! Thank you Joe Jenkins! After living for four years with a well known brand of composting toilet, the sawdust toilet in this book has finally given us simple living. I read this book cover to cover the day I got it. My husband built it in one hour and we started using it. Simplicity at it's best! Everything in this book makes total sense. I only wish I'd bought this book four years ago when we first moved to our homestead. I highly recommend it-it should be required reading to live in this country!

Excellent information. A must-read for all, especially those wanting to live off-grid.

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