

Pit Capacity (Volume) and Dimensions.

The following tables provide a range of pit dimensions versus pit capacity (volume). When calculating the volume required for your latrine pit, a volume of at least 0.06 cubic meters per person for each year of use is recommended.

500mm must be allowed for soil in-fill when the pit is ultimately closed (public health recommendation), and this has already been accounted for in the below figures.

It is important to note that the deeper the pit, the more sanitary the latrine will be. The deeper in the ground that the pit contents are will result in a more pleasant toilet above. Particularly in the case of mechanically bored circular pits, ensure that the pit hole is bored as deep as the auger allows.

Table 1: Latrine pit minimum depth for **1 years service.**

	Number of people using the toilet per day.			
	5 people	10 people	20 people	50 people
500mm diameter circular pit	2000mm	-	-	-
500mm x 500mm square pit	1700mm	2900mm	-	-
600mm diameter circular pit	1500mm	2500mm	-	-
600mm x 600mm square pit	1200mm	2100mm	-	-
700mm diameter circular pit	1300mm	2100mm	-	-
700mm x 700mm square pit	1100mm	1700mm	2900mm	-
800mm diameter circular pit	1100mm	1700mm	2300mm	-
800mm x 800mm square pit	1000mm	1400mm	1850mm	2400mm
900mm diameter circular pit	1000mm	1500mm	2000mm	2500mm
900mm x 900mm square pit	1000mm	1300mm	1700mm	2100mm

Table 2: Latrine pit minimum depth for **2 years service.**

	Number of people using the toilet per day.			
	5 people	10 people	20 people	50 people
500mm diameter circular pit	-	-	-	-
500mm x 500mm square pit	2900mm	-	-	-
600mm diameter circular pit	2600mm	-	-	-
600mm x 600mm square pit	2100mm	-	-	-
700mm diameter circular pit	2000mm	-	-	-
700mm x 700mm square pit	1700mm	2900mm	-	-
800mm diameter circular pit	1700mm	2900mm	-	-
800mm x 800mm square pit	1400mm	2300mm	-	-
900mm diameter circular pit	1500mm	2400mm	-	-
900mm x 900mm square pit	1250mm	2000mm	2750mm	-

Note: The pit contents are continually decomposing and reducing in volume. For pit toilets serving the public or high traffic locations that have large pits (e.g. 1.5m x 1.5 meters x 3.0 meters deep, or larger), the composting action renders such toilets as more or less permanent.