

15 Questions to Ask Yourself When Siting a Latrine

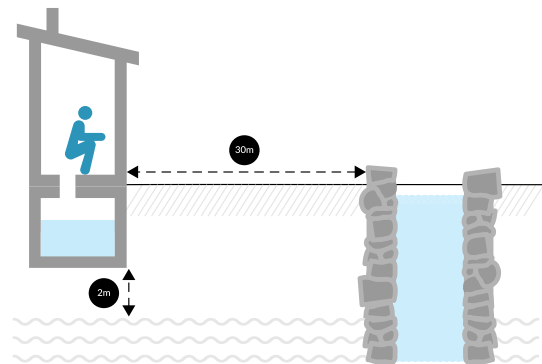
There are many considerations when choosing a location to build a latrine in emergencies, including environmental factors, maintenance and user access.

Failure to consider how a latrine will be emptied, and whether it is appropriately located for maintenance vehicles and users may lead to a return to open defecation and risk serious health consequences.

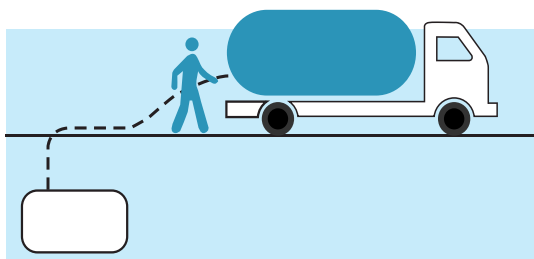
Below are 15 questions you should ask yourself when choosing a location to site a latrine. We have not prioritized the questions, as priorities will be context-specific and the most important goal of this tool is that the following questions are considered early in the decision-making process.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- 1 Is the latrine at least 30 metres from any water source?
- 2 Will the latrine be at least 2 metres above the water table?
- 3 Are soil characteristics suitable for latrine pit construction at this location? For example, suitable soils include: soil with high clay content. Unsuitable soils include: soft sand (sand, loamy sand and sandy loam), loose angular gravel, shale, and previously excavated soil.



OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACCESS



- 4 Is this latrine going to be emptied?
- 5 What emptying options are available? (i.e.: vacuum truck or manual emptying) and what is the transportation method? (i.e.: truck, small motorized vehicle, hand cart, etc.)
- 6 Does any infrastructure, such as buildings, market stalls or busy roads, block emptying equipment or personnel from accessing the pit?

7 Are any of the access roads blocked seasonally due to flooding or other hazards?

8 Are there land ownership/permissions to consider for this location?

9 Can this location accommodate rapid upscale if needed?

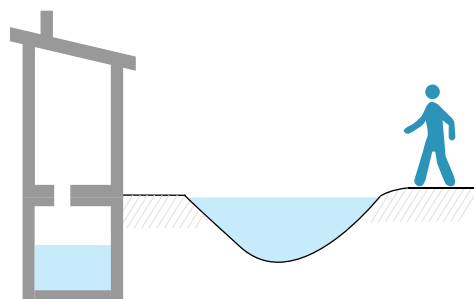
USER ACCESS

10 Is there any physical land feature that may inhibit use and access of the latrine (a hill, stream, hole, etc.)?

11 Will users have to walk more than 50 metres from their homes to access the latrine?

12 Is the latrine closer than 6 metres from someone's home? (Ideally, a latrine should be within 50 metres of people's homes, but never closer than 6 metres to any home).

13 If water is needed for flushing or handwashing, is sufficient water available at a reasonable distance?



ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

14 Will users with physical disabilities be able to access the latrine in this location? Can features such as ramps and handrails be included in the design?

15 Will any user feel shame, fear, or be physically unable to use the latrine because of its location?

- Will women fear attack or rape when using a latrine day or night at this location?
- Is it important in this culture that defecation happens in secrecy, and does this location permit users to access the latrine inconspicuously?
- Will latrines built in this location be open and accessible at any time of day, or will closures force people to find other, less dignified options?

