

# Porto Potty 101

This subject is really a huge issue at Burning Man. Really if you don't think it is you will find out when you get there.

When it come to keeping your self from getting sick on the playa one thing comes to my mind first, the Porta Potties! Those little pocket sized Purell hand sanitizer bottles are they way to go to clean up after using them.

Although the potties for the last few years have been pretty clean they are still loaded with lots of nasty germs. Especially the door latches! Use the hand sanitizer so you don't pick up those germs.

## Potties training rule Number One

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Under no circumstances does anything go in the Porta Potties that did not come from inside your body! The only exception is toilet paper. It is NOT OK to put baby wipes in them either. The baby wipes turn into a goo that clogs the pumps on the cleaning trucks. This requires them to shut down the trucks and pull the pump and clean the babywipe goo out of them. All this wasted time means that the potties down the line are still dirty and getting worse for all of us.

Next hint.....real important. The potties run out of toilet paper late at night the last cleaning they get is around 6pm each night. The crews does not return to clean them until around 6am the next morning and then again around noon. So if you are out in the city and have got to go it isn't fun when you find there is no toilet paper to be found in any of them. There is an easy way to fix this problem! Just a few weeks before Burning Man start saving up some of your almost finished rolls or toilet paper. When you have about 1/4 of the roll left, set these aside for Burning Man. Take the rolls lay then on their side flatten them with the cardboard tube still inside so the paper stays intact on the flattened rolls. They will now fit in your pants pocket or fanny pack for use when you find there is no paper in the potties.

Hint---> they ask we use single ply toilet paper so it breaks down easier in the trucks pumps.

The future of Burning Man depends on the ability to have Porta Potties. If they cant clean them because of trash then it jeopardizes the permit process and our own health. Those of us who were at Burning Man 2000 can testify how bad it can get when people dispose of trash in them. In 2000 the potties were over flowing with human waste and garbage. Literally it was so bad the shit and trash was running out on the floor! There were multiple things that happened over several days to create the problem, not just one thing. The potties were out of control by Wednesday with trash and then somebody thought it would be cool to steal one of the two trucks on hand that were used to clean them. When it was recovered the truck was damaged so bad it could not be used. With just one truck, 25,000 people and potties that were already bad, It just got worse from there.