

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a set of instructions originally written by Larry Kline, with some bits added when we posted it to the new website.

I was hoping to include a link to a set of directions for making your own boom box from the rangers at the Missouri Breaks National Monument but it's not on their website. You can call them at 406-622-4000 for a paper copy, or find a transcription of their directions on page 18.

HUMAN WASTE DISPOSAL: CONTAINERS AND PROCEDURES

All trip participants on Club-sponsored multi-day trips must make adequate provisions for disposal of their own solid human waste as required by the government agency managing the area being paddled. That means you must plan ahead and check the specific requirements of your destination. These requirements differ widely; people paddling and camping for the first time in the arid West will find that approved methods for waste disposal are much different here than in more rainy areas. Being prepared is vital; in some places rangers will not let you on the water unless you are equipped to pack out your waste in a fashion that meets their regulations.

TYPES OF CONTAINERS:

1. A COMMERCIAL BOOM BOX is a solid-walled container about the size of a large shoebox with two screw-top lids. They are available at *River Mouse Touring Kayaks* and some local rafting stores. They may be used two different ways and, accordingly, are called either a "wet" boom box or a "dry" boom box. See "Procedures for Use" and "Storage While Paddling" below for the details.



2. A HOME-MADE BOOM BOX is used by many members. They have constructed a 4" diameter PVC pipe (18 to 24 inches long) with PVC screw caps on both ends, or on just one end with the other end cap glued on. [See photo on the next page.]

3. WAG BAGS and RESTOP 2 are disposable products using an absorbent polymer solidifier in a plastic bag within another plastic bag with a Ziploc-type top. These are available at REI for less than \$3 per unit. There are several types, some for use with a toilet seat form or bucket, and others that are more individual. All have their advantages, but check the description on the package carefully to be sure that you are buying the type you want. (Google "Waste Alleviation and Gelling" or "Restop" for more information.)

4. CASUAL WRAP is a low-tech newspaper and Ziploc bag combination that can be made at home. Just fold two full sheets of newspaper inside a 7x9" freezer-grade Ziploc bag (one bag with paper per anticipated use), along with several larger Ziploc bags for double-bagging, and take them with you. Some people also recommend a cupful of cat litter for each expected use. [ED. NOTE: I am not sure that this will satisfy the rangers in 2016.]



PROCEDURES FOR USE:

- When using any container, urinate in a separate location. *Leave No Trace* provides specific guidelines for location selection depending on the environment in which you are paddling.
- **WET BOOM BOX:** Do your business on the ground and then transfer the “pile” (dirt and all, but not too many twigs or you will have problems with your toilet at home) into the boom box using a hand trowel. Another option is to aim for a square of paper towel and deposit the whole package in the box, although paper towels may not flush well, either. For ease of cleaning and more pleasant use, spray the insides of the Boom Box with PAM and add two cups of water and a small packet of deodorizer purchased from a hardware, RV or Wal-Mart store.
- **WAG BAGS AND RESTOP 2:** Follow the manufacturer’s instructions. If it’s not feasible to use the manufacturer’s instructions use the scoop method described above.
- **CASUAL WRAP SYSTEM:** Do your business on the double-layered newspaper, add cat litter for absorbency if desired, fold the paper and contents like a burrito and slip it into a 7x9 inch freezer-grade Ziploc bag. A variation of this system is to do your business on the ground and pick it up with a plastic bag on your hand (like grabbing dog-doo). Store either package in a plastic container as described below or double-bag in a larger plastic bag.

STORAGE WHILE PADDLING:

Boom Boxes are usually stored inside the cockpit at your feet or on the aft deck. WAG Bags, Restop 2 and Casual Wrap baggies can be stored inside the front hatch and against the front bulkhead of your boat so they are protected from punctures, or inside a Dry Boom Box for more worry-free transport. [Note: WAG bags do not completely seal in the odors. You will want to keep them in a dedicated dry bag, and even then you’ll be happy to pitch them in the first dumpster you find.]



DISPOSAL AT THE END OF THE PADDLE:

Wet Boom Boxes can be emptied carefully into your toilet and washed out with your garden hose before being air dried for their next use. Most odors are eliminated by having used the deodorizer packets mentioned above.

WAG Bags, Restop 2 and Casual Wrap Ziploc bags can be disposed of in the trash just like disposable baby diapers or bags of dog-doo.

BUILD YOUR OWN KAYAKERS' PORTABLE TOILET

From the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument
Bureau of Land Management's Fort Benton River Management Station
406-622-4000 or 1-877-256-3252

All parts and materials were obtained at
a local RV sales/service retailer.

MATERIALS:

- One 3 inch diameter ABS pipe, cut length to fit the storage location, such as behind a kayak seat, and capacity needs. Capacity with 3-inch diameter tube is approximately four inches of linear tubing to contain one use for one person for one day.
- Two end cap adapters, also called termination adapters.
- One 3-inch end cap.
- One 3-inch end cap with hose attachment threads for cleaning
- ABS glue/cement and primer
- Two bayonet hooks

CONSTRUCTION:

No tools are needed to assemble this toilet. Spray the inside of both end caps (with the primer?) and let them dry. Then use ABS cement to glue the two end cap adapters to each end of the pipe and be sure to push down tight to get a good seal. Attach end caps with bayonet hooks.

USE:

Make your "deposit" on a large coffee filter (10"-12") or a large paper towel and place it in the tube along with toilet paper. Replace the end cap.

Due to the use of coffee filters or paper towels and the small dimensions of this system, it cannot be cleaned in the SCAT Machine. [Kipp Campground does not have a SCAT machine.] Coffee filters and paper towels cause SCAT Machine breakdowns. This toilet is set up to be cleaned at an RV dump station. To clean the toilet at a dump station, attach a water hose to the end cap with hose threads. Remove the opposite end cap and place the tube upright over the dump station receiving hole. Turn on the water to flush the unit. Both end caps can be removed for a more thorough cleaning if necessary.