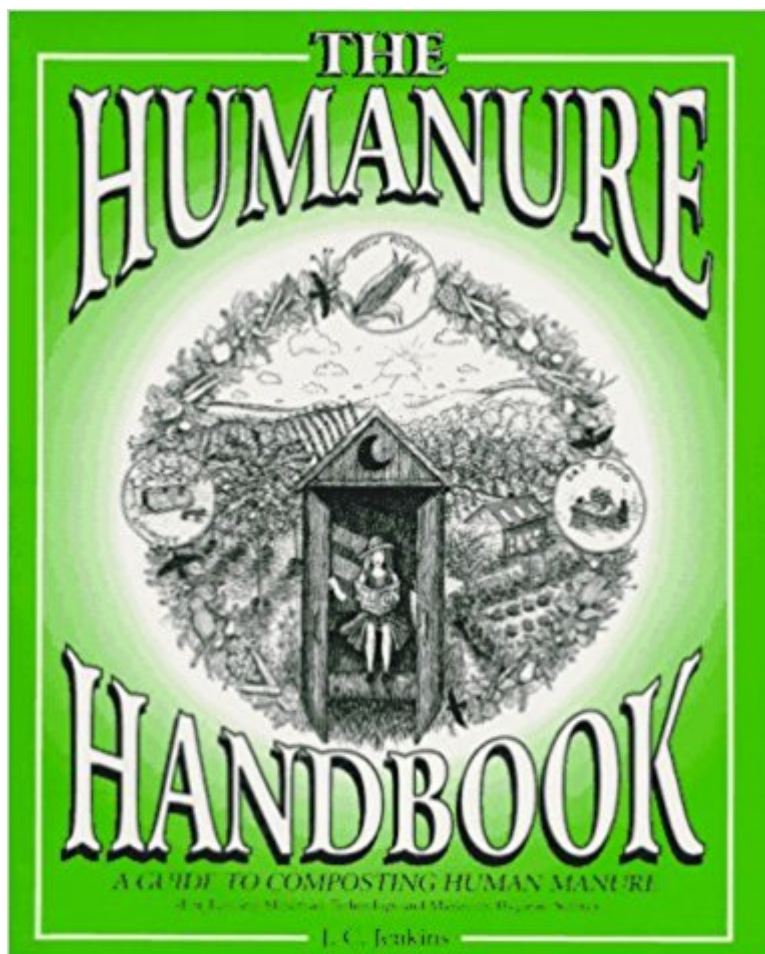


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The Humanure Handbook: A Guide To Composting Human Manure



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The 1st Edition of The Humanure Handbook is out of print. Please refer to our .com page for The Humanure Handbook, 2nd Edition, Completely Revised, Expanded and Updated.

I've been longing for a book like this; a book that brings a thoroughly convincing, simple answer to a huge problem that we all share. For a while now, I've been immensely interested in attempting live off-grid, and the reality of my own craps has been a planning concern. Septic is pretty pricey when you're not looking to spend much money and looking to do things yourself. I've read some of Bill Mollison (the founder of "permaculture") and he gives some interesting do-it-yourself techniques for ways to use your poop (such as turning it into methane/energy production), but they all seem to imply a lot more money and complexity than the simplicity of composting. Perhaps Bill mentions the straightforward composting of human manure in other books, but his "Designer's Manual" did not mention it. Composting our manure makes much sense, for it seems quite likely that there's many nutrients in our manure - especially if you eat wholesome foods. When you consider that the heat of the properly constructed compost pile (typically around 120 degrees) is, supposedly, according to the author and the impressive documentation he cites, entirely sufficient to destroy all pathogens that may be found in human manure it begs the question: why haven't we been doing this? And why instead are we all pooping in our drinking water?

Best and most exhaustive info on the subject that I'm aware of. Should be a 'must read' for all municipal authorities engaged in the business of sewage disposal services. We need to take back this planet and this is a place to start for those who can manage their own wastes. The nest is filling up with crap and the world is running low on water resources so it seems the time is ripe to let our 'humanure' hit the fan and let nature work it's magic.

Book could be a bit more organized, but all the information is there. Additional insights, including how to build your own humanure toilet, can be obtained by viewing the author's website, [...] A listing of humanure YouTube videos can be found at [...] Look for those produced by Joe Jenkins.

Ok, seriously, good info about a sensitive subject here in the good ole USA! Good info. Well written. Reads quickly. Great sense of humor. Good documentation with lots of footnotes. I learn so much good stuff. Even includes several instructions for building your own compost toilet! We are moving off grid and needed compost info and was curious about humanure. After reading this book, I think we can safely compost but will only be using on our landscape trees until we are sure we've perfected our skills. Glad I bought this one instead of the other guys book.

This book is great because it has freed me from the fear of using a composting toilet. It has also freed me from the fear of worrying about harming my family, friends, or neighbors. His 20+ years of using this method without harm and his excellent points about the cost we all pay in dollars, health, and environmental damage from our "status quo" sewer systems is enough to win me over. Power to the people!

This book was on a required reading list for a course I'm taking this spring. Changed my life. Joseph Jenkins is a great writer, making what would normally be an odd subject fun and a good read. I couldn't put it down! His witty writing and cold hard facts not only educated but entertained me. I suffered from "fecophobia" to the point I didn't want to admit my beautiful girlfriend pooped! I now have a new understanding of the subject and not only can't stop talking about humanure, but I'm already building a compost (in my urban back yard in the city) and making plans for a new toilet soon. READ IT, READ IT, READ IT!!

I will admit that my first impression of this concept was shock. After lots of researching and reading

this book, my opinion is that everyone needs to be making Humanure. The book is full of statistics, interesting observations and practical instructions. I was pleasantly surprised to find the chapter about grey water recycling, as a bonus to the main topic. If you are concerned with sustainability or consider yourself an environmentalist, this book is for you.

I think this is a must-read for the environmentally conscious. Given our water situation, flushing drinking-grade water down the toilet is simply no longer an option. At the very least, we should reuse graywater (e.g., from the washer, sinks for flushing). I am not sure how I feel about composting my own waste, but I will start experimenting with that and report back (the sawdust project). It requires having the space to do it (room for two compost piles of about 1 cubic yard each, and probably some distance from living quarters (not to mention wells). Which makes this a fairly restricted proposition/solution (for more rural areas). But just reading the first chapter should be required to raise awareness of the urgency of the problem human waste represents (no pun intended).

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