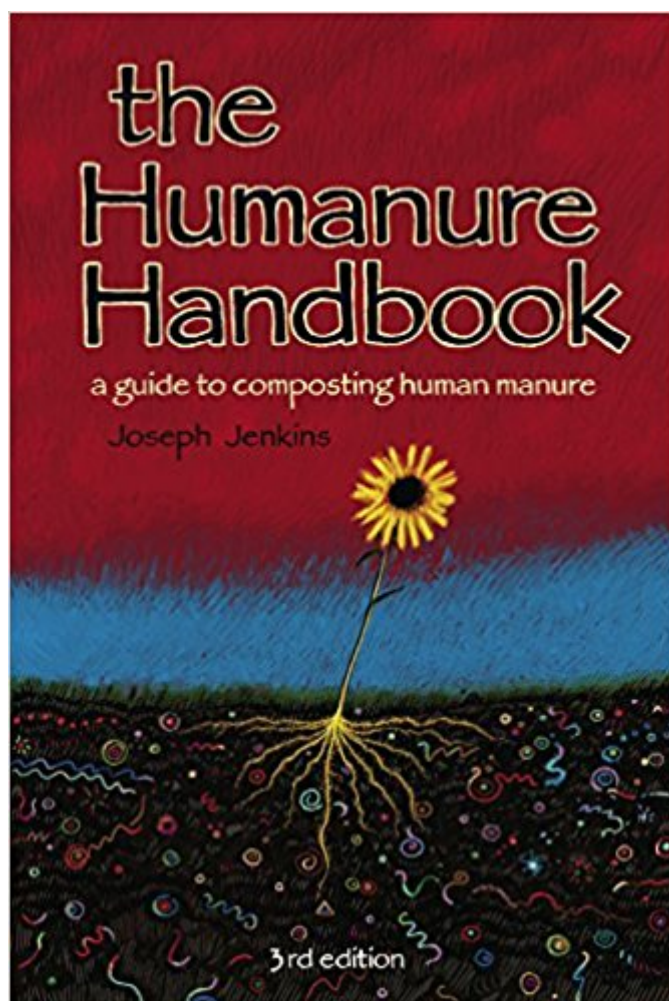


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# The Humanure Handbook: A Guide To Composting Human Manure, Third Edition



## Synopsis

The 10th Anniversary Edition of the most comprehensive, up-to-date and thoroughly researched book on the topic of composting human manure available anywhere. It includes a review of the historical, cultural and environmental issues pertaining to "human waste," as well as an in depth look at the potential health risks related to humanure recycling, with clear instructions on how to eliminate those dangers in order to safely convert humanure into garden soil. Written by a humanure composter with over thirty years experience, this classic work now includes illustrated, step-by-step instructions on how to build a "\$25 humanure toilet," a chapter on alternative graywater systems, photos of owner-built humanure toilets from around the world, and an overview of commercial composting toilets and systems.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is a cult classic which might strike those without an outhouse as disgusting. But the methods outlined within have the potential to change the ecological fate of the world." *New Yorker Magazine*"Despite all the books on manure and how to use it, human manure composting is not covered elsewhere, making the Humanure Handbook a fine reference for any who would learn these basics. If you're an avid composter, there's nothing like this on the market." *Midwest Book Review*"Finally we have a comprehensive book on recycling human excrement without chemicals, high technology, or pollution. Well written, practical, and thoroughly researched . . ."--*Whole Earth*

Review"Almost certain to become a classic in its field. This book should be required reading. . . ."  
"--Countryside Journal"We think The Humanure Handbook ranks right up there with Rachel Carson's Silent Spring . . ."  
"--HortIdeas

This is the 3rd edition of a self-published book. No respectable publisher would touch it with a ten foot shovel. The 1st edition of Humanure was published in 1994 with a print run of 660 copies, which the author fully expected would last the rest of his life. Now, 22 years later, the book has sold over 60,000 copies in at least 59 countries worldwide and has been published in numerous foreign editions on four continents. The 2nd Edition was a 2000 Independent Publisher Outstanding Book of the Year, deemed the book "Most Likely to Save the Planet," a 2000 Finalist in ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year Awards, and a Finalist in the 2000 Benjamin Franklin Awards for Excellence in Publishing. It was an .com #1 bestseller in its category for several years, and has been reviewed by Mother Earth News, Whole Earth Review, Countryside Journal, The Journal of Environmental Quality, Natural Health, and many other popular print media. It has been talked about on NPR, BBC, CBC, Howard Stern, The Wall Street Journal, Playboy Magazine, Organic Gardening Magazine and many other national and international venues.

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 learns so much good stuff. Even includes serveral 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 understating 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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