

Bathroom etiquette

Understand what's normal for people from different cultures and add helpful signage to your facilities.

Be sensitive

Don't pass judgement

The way people use toilet and bathroom facilities is influenced by their customs, ethnic background, financial means, and preference.



Squatting

A large percentage of the world's population use squat toilets. They're cheaper to make, use less water and are easier to clean. Squat toilets have a pan or bowl at floor level. As the name implies, the user squats over the toilet.

Nearly all the toilets in New Zealand are designed to be used while seated. For visitors who have only ever used squatting toilets there can be confusion. They may stand on the seat to assume their squatting position.

Use signage

Install a visual reminder on the back of each toilet door. Show that the toilet is to be used in a sitting rather than squatting position.

You can also ask people to use the bins provided to throw the rubbish, and ask men to stand closer to toilets to avoid mess.

Use 'No smoking' signs and smoke alarms to deter smoking.

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