

# HUMAN WASTE DISPOSAL

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. Plan ahead and check the specific requirements of your destination. These requirements differ, and in some places Rangers won't let you on the river unless you are prepared to pack your poop in a fashion that meets their approval. On private lands use one of the approved methods or follow the directions of the landowner.

## THREE APPROVED METHODS:

1. A *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 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 below for the details.
2. *WAG Bags* and *Restop 2* are new 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 advocates, but check carefully to see that you are buying the type you want. (Google "Waste Alleviation & Gelling" or "Restop" for more information.)
3. *Crap 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 inch 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.

## PROCEDURES FOR USE:

1. In all three methods, especially the Crap Wrap system, urinate in a separate location before performing the major task at hand.
2. Wet Boom Box: Do your business on the ground and then transfer the "pile" (dirt and all, but not too many twigs or your toilet at home will complain) 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. For ease of cleaning and more pleasant use, before you leave home 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.
3. WAG Bags and Restop 2: Use manufactures instructions. If its not feasible to use the manufactures instructions use the poop and scoop method described in 2. Wet Boom Box above.
4. Crap 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 and then into a larger Ziploc bag for double containment. A variant 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) and store the package in the outer bag, or in a plastic container as described below.

## STORAGE WHILE PADDLING:

Boom boxes are usually stored inside the cockpit at your feet or on the aft deck. WAG Bags, Restop 2 and Crap Wrap baggies can be stored as follows:

1. Inside the front hatch and against the front bulkhead of your boat so they are protected from punctures.
2. Inside a 4-inch diameter PVC pipe (18 to 24 inches long, cut to suit your boat) with PVC screw caps on both ends or on just one end with the other end cap glued on. Store the pipe inside or on the deck of your boat.
3. Inside a dry Boom Box for worry-free transport.

## DISPOSAL AT THE END OF THE PADDLE:

1. Wet Boom Boxes can be emptied in your toilet (gingerly!) 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.
2. WAG Bags, Restop 2 and Crap Wrap Ziploc bags can be disposed of in the trash just like disposable baby diapers.