

How to Select a Portable Toilet

All the portable toilets sold by Fisheries are “dual tank” models -- with separate tanks to hold clean flushing water, and a lower holding tank to contain waste.

These “flushing” portable toilets are designed to provide clean bowls and provide a more home-like experience.

During disposal, the tanks are separated, and the holding tank taken to a disposal facility for emptying. Some models offer the option to permanently, or semi-permanently, “hard plumb” the toilet to a traditional pump-out deck fitting via a dedicated hose.

It is worth noting that the holding tanks of modern portable toilets have O-ring or gasket seals at every opening which keep waste where it belongs, and virtually eliminate odor problems.

Additionally, there are a variety of seat styles, colors, design styles, and special features such as pour spouts or tank level indicators available.

Choose From Two Sizes

Portable toilets are typically offered in two main versions -- shorter models with 2-1/2 gallon holding tanks, and taller models with 5 gallon holding tanks.

5 gallon models take up more space, but their higher seat level makes them more comfortable for most users. Additionally, 5 gallon tanks have the capacity to go longer between emptying and to accommodate larger crews.

2-1/2 gallon models are shorter, making them easier to stow in cramped boats and RVs. ALL portable toilets have completely sealed holding tanks (you have to be able to carry them), so they can actually be stowed in two pieces when not in use, if desired. This feature makes the 2-1/2 gallon models especially adaptable to the smallest of boats.

By way of reference, household toilets typically have a 14-1/2” bowl height, with “comfort height” bowls being about 16-1/2”.

Flush Mechanisms

A second distinguishing feature among portable toilets is the variety of flushing mechanisms available.

Traditional models have a small hand-operated flushing pump. Pressure-flush models have accumulator-style flush water tanks which are pre-pressurized and then are good for powering several flushes without additional pumping. Still other models have battery powered electric pumps to do the flushing.

Depending on the amount of water used per flush, 2.5 gallon holding tank models are typically marketed as being good for 20 to 30 uses between emptying, while 5 gallon models can handle 40 to 50 uses.