

Toilet Paper Alternatives

By: Raine

Toilet paper is one of those things that everyone uses, but you never seem to have when you really need. This came up at work one night (gotta love graveyard shift boredom), and it sounded like the makings of an article, so I took some notes.

Here's what we came up with:

Baby wipes - the best, but if you have them, you probably have TP

Napkins/tissues - more likely to have them on hand, but they're not that great

Leaves - some are ok (maple's good), half dry is best - not slick or crumbly

Moss - not too bad, but watch for bugs (esp. redbugs)

Sand - works, but is a PITA & leaves grit

Dirt/earth - Better than sand, cleans about the same & doesn't leave grit

Seashells - make sure they're smooth & they work - gets rid of the sand, too

Snow - cold, but efficient

Rags - would be a waste to dispose of & just seems nasty to have to clean & reuse

Clothing - see above, but a bandana, sock, or whatever would work in a pinch

Grass or hay - not very good "loose", but ok when balled up

Corn husks - I dunno why these weren't used instead of cobs

Flat sticks - I wouldn't wanna scrape with one, but a coworker says he's done it :-\

Seaweed - not very good - if wet, it's all slimy - if dry, sand sticks and is abrasive

Frayed rope - soft, but not something you're likely to have around unless on a ship

Newspapers/catalogs/phone books - not that good & newsprint will rub off

Your hand - common in some parts of the world (then washed!), but ewww

Coconut shells - fuzzy side out is ok, but they're not found in many places

Sponge - a damp sponge or a loofah works great, if you have them around

Stones - they work, just make sure they're smooth

Feathers - maybe if you have ostriches, but most are too small/slick

Bark - works ok, but no matter how "papery" it looks, still feels pretty rough

This list - or other "junk" papers or receipts - ok if paper is worn, not good if newer

Going in the river - might get ya clean, but dead from disease - DON'T DO IT

Toilet paper - just take some off the roll & stash it in your BOB or car, it's easiest