

What is Waste Water Use ?

There are many problems of water shortage in our homes and villages. Apart from needing water to irrigate nurseries and kitchen gardens, in many places it can be difficult to get water even for the essentials of daily life. It's not possible to carry water from far away to put on the garden. In places where it isn't plentiful, waste water from washing dishes, hands, faces and bathing can be used to irrigate kitchen gardens. This is called **Waste Water Use**. Water that has already been used once is still a valuable resource to use again.

There are many resources around us which can be easily and beneficially used . Problems come only when we don't know the methods to do this.



In Surkhet, Nepal, waste water is collected from the taps to water vegetables

Why use Waste Water ?

Benefits of Using Waste Water

- Water isn't wasted after washing dishes and bathing
- We can use that water to increase crop production
- Increase resources for the household
- Waste resources are recycled
- Keeps the house and courtyard clean



Because ashes and other materials are used in the waste water, it is very fertile. So it gives nutrients to crops as well as irrigation. Plants grow really well with these extra nutrients. This is a good use of waste resources.

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How to use Waste Water ?

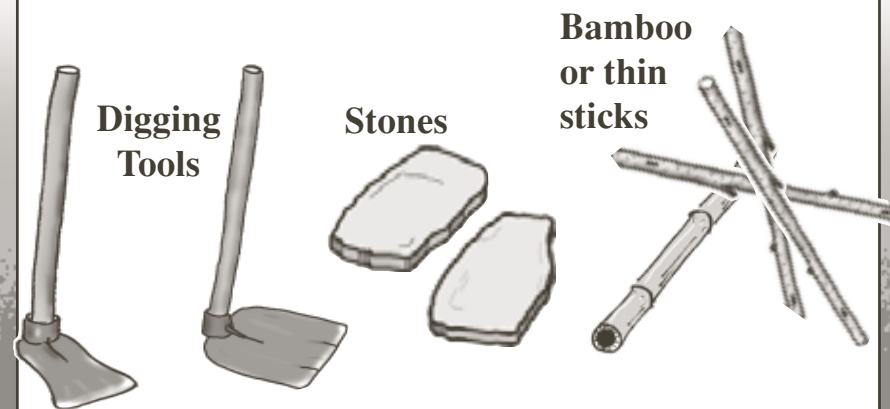
Where to Collect the Waste Water ?

On the edge of the courtyard around the house there should be a fixed place for washing hands, pots, etc. When the pit is made close to this, the waste water can be collected. When making a pit, it should be close to the household's kitchen garden or home nursery, so irrigation is easy.

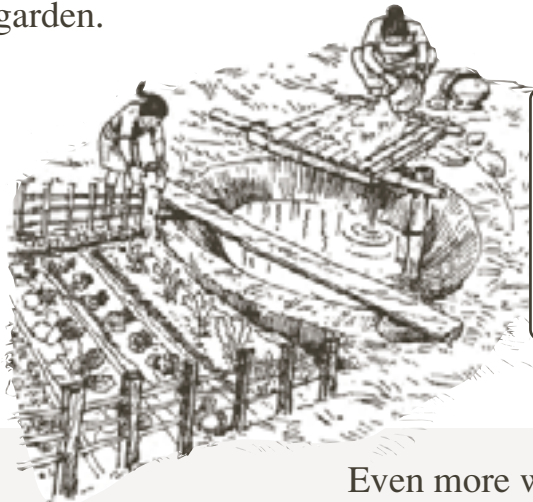
When to Make it ?

Ways of collecting waste water can be made at any time. Waste water collection helps to keep the area clean all year round. It's especially useful for irrigation in the dry season.

Materials Needed to Make a Waste Water Pit



There are different methods of collecting and using waste water. You can use the method which is best for you according to your own needs and resources. For any method, first all water should be collected at one point. Water can be collected into a pit and then a watering can be used to put it on the garden. Or a series of small canals can lead from the washing place directly to the where the water is needed in the garden.

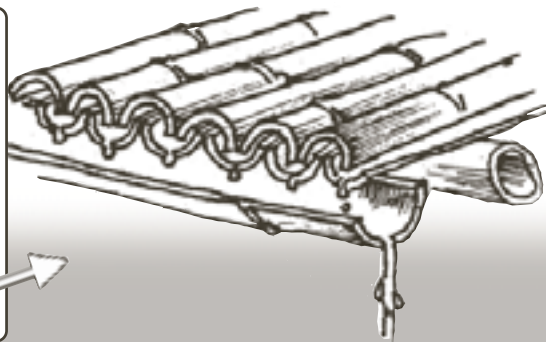


After collecting waste water like this, it can be used in the garden.

Even more water can be used this way if bathing and clothes washing are also done here.

The pit should be kept clean, and the water used as quickly as possible, otherwise mosquito and other pests or diseases can collect.

A draining platform like this can be made to send the waste water straight to the garden



Let's See

How to make a waste water pit



If water used in the house goes to waste it cannot help to grow crops, and also makes the courtyard dirty.

In the very same place with very little input, a good kitchen garden can be made





At the washing up place, on one side the clean pots are dried, and on the other the waste water is made to flow away.



Then the waste water flows by itself onto the garden.

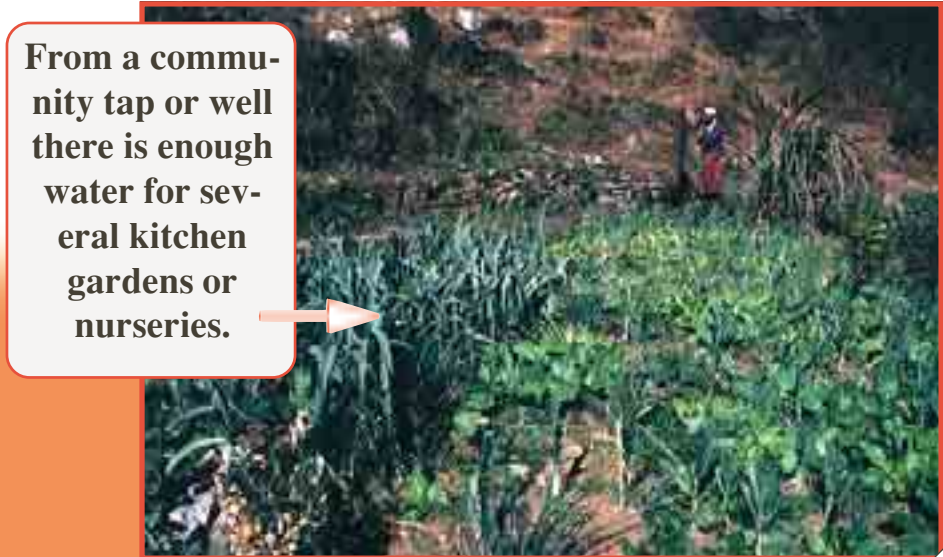
In this way the washing place, drying place and place the water away can be arranged easily.



Here is the washing place



Because the waste water is well managed to go to all the right places in the garden, this is enough for watering and fertilizing the vegetables in the beds.



From a community tap or well there is enough water for several kitchen gardens or nurseries.

Maintenance

How to Maintain the Waste Water Pit

Where to use the Waste Water ?

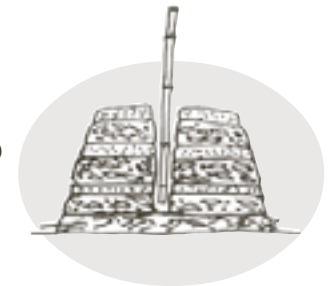
Using waste water collected daily

- to water small kitchen gardens
- to water nurseries of fruit, fodder trees, fodder grass seedlings etc. for your own use or to sell or trade
- to raise vegetable seedlings for the kitchen garden

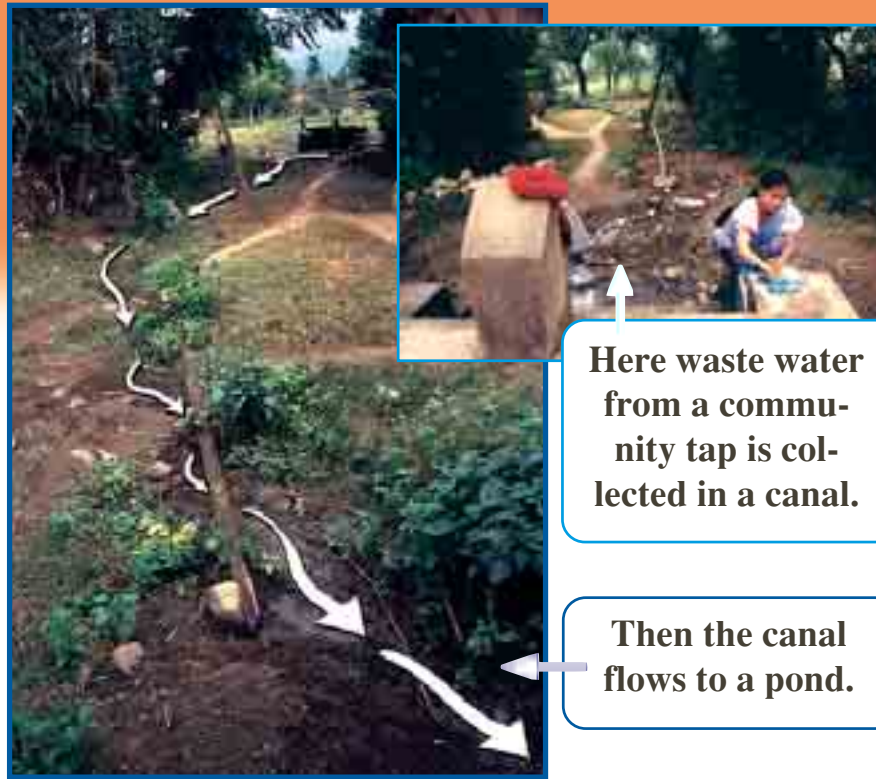


Because nurseries or kitchen gardens are made near the house, livestock like chickens, goats and pigs mustn't be left to roam the area because they will destroy the plants there. They will also damage the pit or tank.

If waste water is sometimes added to the compost pile, it will help it to rot down quicker.



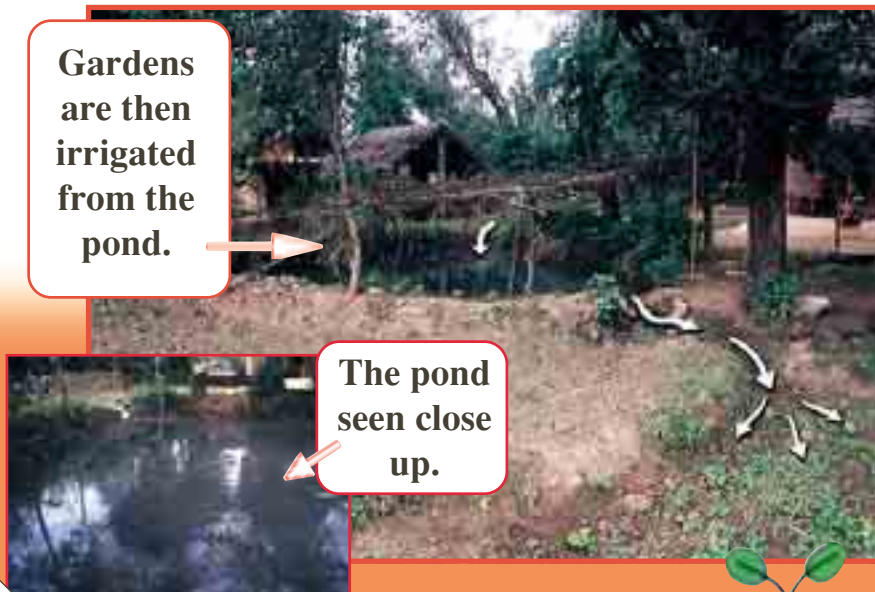
Around the edges of the waste water pit perennial plants like lemon grass, comfrey, tree tomato and fruit trees can be planted. Because it is always moist, these plants will grow and produce well.



Here waste water from a community tap is collected in a canal.

Then the canal flows to a pond.

Gardens are then irrigated from the pond.



The pond seen close up.

Farmers' Experience

Mrs Tilisara Gharti

From Nepal, Surkhet district, Gumi - 8, Pandit Kanla village, and a member of "Women Improve" women's group, Mrs Tilisara Gharti has made an waste water pit. Now let's hear about her experience.



Mrs Tilisara Gharti

“ At first I didn't know about this method. All the water from washing up went to waste. Now, after learning about this method, a waste water pit has been made. From here, a small ditch carries water into the nursery and kitchen garden area. Now the washing area is better managed, a bamboo rack has been made, and water is collected into one place. From here it goes to the garden. A small amount of work has solved the water problem. Now waste water from our house is used for vegetables, and a fruit seedling nursery. This method is really easy and efficient. Now others are starting to use the same method in the village. ”

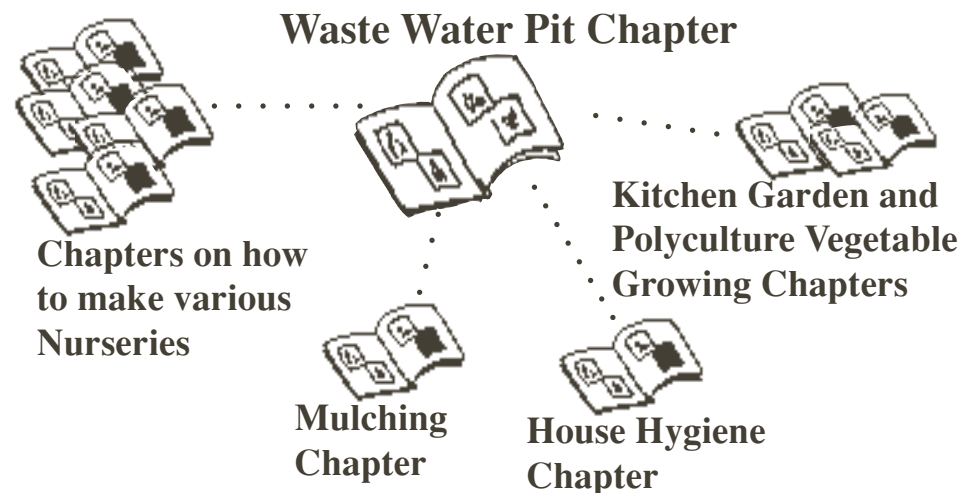


Read On !



Subjects Related to Waste Water

Good benefits can be had from the information in this book about collecting and using waste water. However, this information is also linked to other methods. For extra benefits let's read, learn and practice from other related chapters.



Mulching Chapter


If water is to be used it must first be conserved. A mulch covers the soil and prevents water loss, so giving more water for the plants. In this chapter is information on how to do mulching.





Chapters on how to make various Nurseries

Different types of plants need different types of management to grow them. Information on how to build and manage the home nursery, fruit nursery, air nursery, hot bed and leaf pots is given in these chapters.



Kitchen Garden and Polyculture Vegetable Growing Chapters

How to make and manage a home vegetable garden for permanence, ease and simplicity. Information on doing less work for more production while also being able to produce a wide range of fresh vegetables is given in these chapters.



House Hygiene Chapter

Don't think that health improvement comes only from eating a good diet. If the house and kitchen are dirty, even more diseases can spread. Information about easy techniques to keep the house clean are given in this chapter

