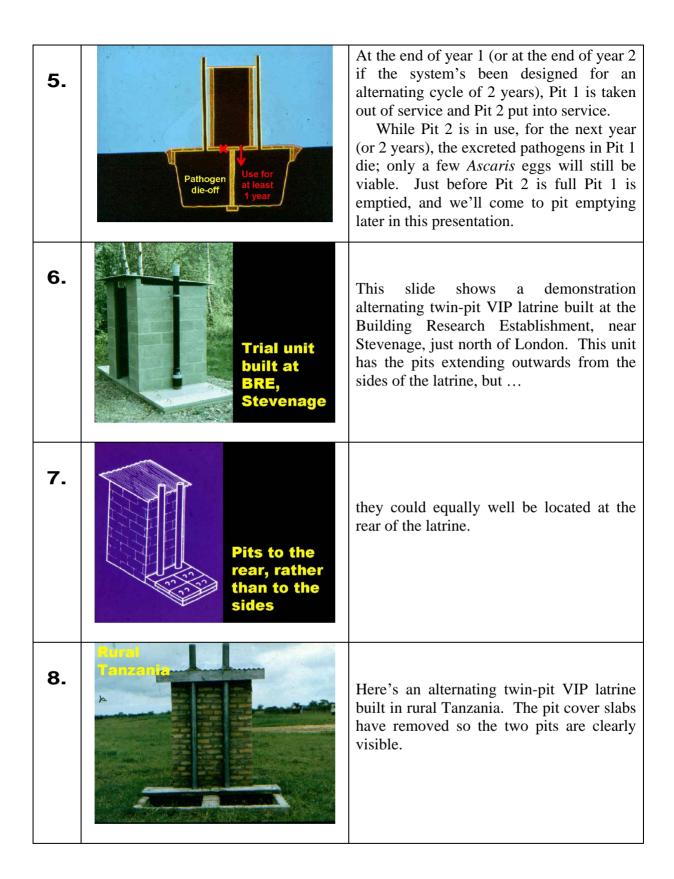
## **Alternating twin-pit VIP latrines**

1.	<image/> <image/> <image/> <image/> <section-header><image/><section-header><image/><section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header>	This presentation is on alternating twin-pit VIP latrines, and
2.	ALTERNATING TWIN-PIT SYSTEMS   • Permanent on-site sanitation systems for peri-urban areas with enough space   > Alternating twin-pit VIP latrines   > Alternating twin-pit PF toilets	these are permanent sanitation facilities – that is to say, they don't need to be relocated when they become full. So they're best suited to periurban areas if there's enough space for them. This 'alternating twin-pit' concept can be applied to pour-flush toilets as well as to VIP latrines.
3.	Common superstructure Two pits and two vent pipes Pit 1 Pit 2	This slide shows the basic features of an alternating twin-pit VIP latrine. There's one superstructure, two vent pipes and two pits, which we'll call Pit 1 and Pit 2.
4.	Use for at least 1 year	Pit 1, the one on the left, is used for at least a year and during this time Pit 2, on the right, is not used and the squat-hole over it is blocked off.



9.		This is another example from Tanzania, with a 'squared off' spiral superstructure. Access to the pits is at the back: to the left you can see an open hole over one of the pits; over the other bricks have corbelled upwards to close the pit – this is an alternative to a thin reinforced-concrete cover slab.
10.	Removable cover slabs	The cover slabs have to be easily removable, as shown here in the demonstration unit at the UK Building Research Establishment.
11.	Note edige destal	The edge detail is important as the overlap prevents light entering the pit and so providing an escape route for any newly emergent adult flies.
12.	150 mm vent pipe diameter In-house alt. twin-pit VIP	We often think that VIP latrines are external to the house, but this needn't be the case. The slide shows an in-house alternating twin-pit VIP latrine and this is perfectly satisfactory if a 150-mm, rather than a 100-mm, diameter vent pipe is used.

13.	Vent pipe should extend above roof! Kumasi, Ghana	This shows one such in-house latrine in Kumasi in Ghana. It's OK but really the vent pipes should have been extended above the roof to maximize the wind effect which controls odour.
14.	School in Kumasi	And here is a double unit in a school in Kumasi, one side for girls and the other for boys.
15.	Kumasi prison	And this is a multi-compartment unit used in the prison in Kumasi.
16.	PIT EMPTYING	Now we come to pit emptying. Obviously the cover slabs have to be removed first and then

17.	Manual emptying OK with alternating twin pits if pits are 'dry'	if the pit is a 'dry' pit – that is to say, its base is above the groundwater table, it can be emptied manually, and this is perfectly safe as all the excreted pathogens will have died with the exception of just a few <i>Ascaris</i> eggs.
18.	Inoffensive, odourless material	The material which has to be dug out is inoffensive and odourless as it will have composted quite well during the period when the pit's not been in use. So it's not a repugnant material at all and, once this is realised by the householders and the emptiers, there's no problem in getting these pits emptied. The material removed can be used on-site as a soil conditioner if there's enough space, or else it can be carted away and used for this purpose elsewhere, or simply landfilled.
19.	For wet pits	But if it's a wet pit and its contents are therefore liquid, it can't be emptied manually and
20.	Image: wide wide wide wide wide wide wide wide	instead an ordinary vacuum tanker, of the type used to empty septic tanks, has to be used to suck out its contents.

**Note**: VIP latrine design details are given in *The Design of Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines*, which is listed in 'Supporting material'

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