



The Story of

TOILET PAPER



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Words in **bold** appear in the glossary.

What Is Toilet Paper?

Toilet paper keeps our bottoms clean. It is an important part of good hygiene. But what is toilet paper?





Toilet paper is a long strip of soft paper. Usually, the strip is wrapped around a cardboard tube. Rows of tiny holes separate the paper into sheets. These holes make the paper easy to tear.



Toilet paper rolls can be big or small. The paper can also be different. One-**ply** toilet paper has a single layer of paper. Two-ply is thicker. It is stronger. It soaks up **moisture**. It feels softer too.

In the United States, seven billion rolls of toilet paper are sold every year. Each person uses about 140 rolls! What would we do without toilet paper?



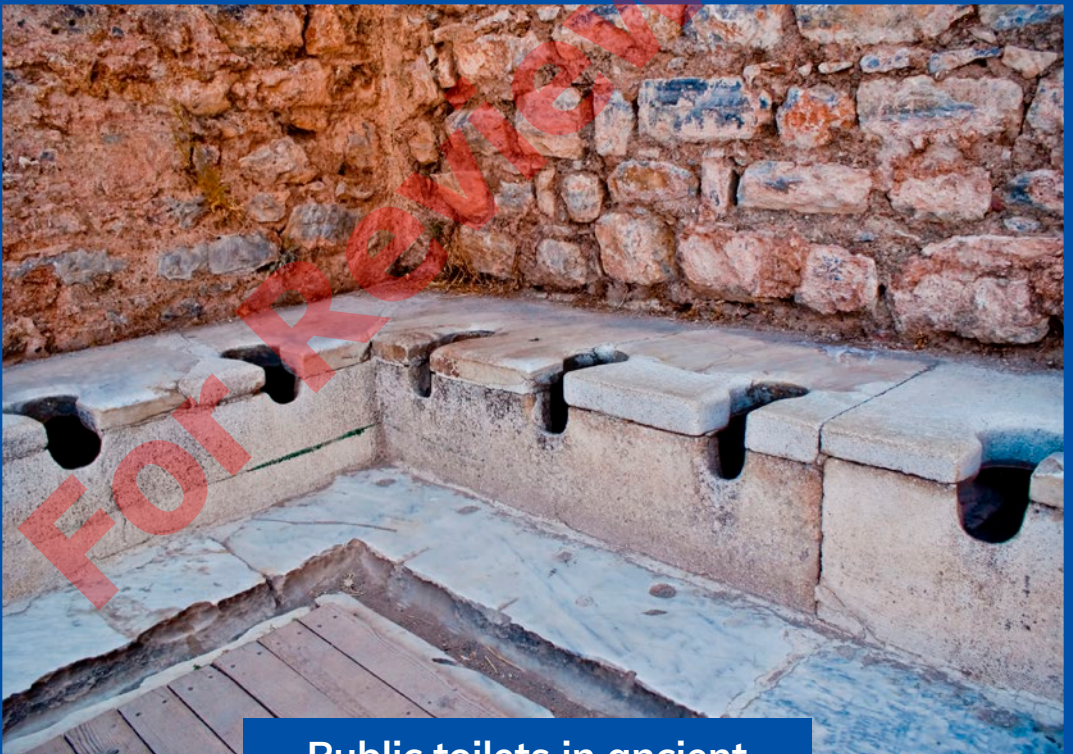
Early Bathroom Behavior

Before toilets, people used **chamber pots**. They emptied them into streams or sometimes the streets! People wiped with shells or leaves. They washed themselves with water or snow. Some people saved bits of cloth. They used these to clean their bottoms.

a chamber pot



Ancient Romans had public toilets.
These were stone blocks with holes.
People cleaned themselves with a
sponge on a stick. Everyone used
the same one!



Public toilets in ancient Rome had multiple seats.