Ventilated Improved Double Pit (VIDP) toilet

A single top-structure over 2 shallow pits, side by side. Only one pit - vented by a pipe protected with a fly screen - is in use at any time. Generally lined and the central wall fully sealed to ensure isolation of one pit from the other.

**Principles of operation**
- As for the VIP toilet. One pit is used until filled to within about half a metre of the top. The defecation and vent pipe holes are then completely sealed and the other pit used. The contents of the first pit are dug out after a period of at least two years, once the contents have become less harmful.

**Operational and institutional requirements**
- As for the VIP toilet, except that promotion of manual emptying by the householder is usual, and use of decomposed waste as a soil conditioner possible. Suitable disposal site necessary.

**Costs**
- Capital: R2 500-R4 500 depending on householder input.
- Operating: R35-R135 every 2 years depending on local government involvement, householder willingness to handle waste, disposal options.

**Experience and comment**
- Resistance to handling of decomposed waste and timely changeover of pits by householders has often been overcome through education and over time - both internationally and in SA. This VIP alternative is often applicable where rocky or groundwater conditions prohibit deep excavation.