

A REPORT ON THE  
OXFAM SANITATION UNITS IN  
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By Everett Ressler, INTERTECT

### Introduction

The criteria upon which the OXFAM Sanitation Unit was developed were described in the July 1975 OXFAM technical paper entitled "OXFAM's Sanitation Unit". Those criteria can be summarized as follows:

1. The provision of an acceptable place for excretion.
2. Retention of the excreta....to render it harmless.
3. Safe disposal of effluent and solids.
4. The unit should be lightweight, low bulk, inexpensive, and packaged complete.
5. Rapid installation capabilities.
6. Useful irrespective of soil conditions.
7. Should operate by gravity.
8. No chemical dosing procedures should be required.
9. Manageable maintenance.
10. Mobile.

From an examination of the technical papers published about the Sanitation Unit, from an inspection of the Units, and from discussions with personnel who have installed and maintained the Units in Bangladesh, it can be concluded that the OXFAM Sanitation Units do indeed meet most of these criteria.

The purpose of this paper is to very briefly examine the advantages and limitations of these Units.

### I. Number of Units

As of August 1976, twenty-four Units were fully operational in Bangladesh; thirteen were under construction; and twenty-three more Units were being planned. The original test period -- from July 1975 to July 1976 -- has been extended as an on-going sanitation program through 1979.

### II. Units Compared with Criteria

1. The provision of an acceptable place for excretion: