

The Wonderful World

Poop!



Even in space, people need to poop. On the International Space Station (ISS), space toilets use a vacuum to capture and store solid waste. Once the container gets full, the astronauts jettison it. It then burns up in the Earth's atmosphere as a shooting star! The ISS is usually staffed by about 6 astronauts, each of whom produces about 150 pounds of waste per year. How many pounds of poop per year does the ISS rain down on the earth?

People love white sand beaches. But did you know they are largely made out of fish poop? It's true! Parrotfish eat algae off of coral and poop out ground up coral as sand. Over time, this accumulates into a sandy beach! A single parrotfish produces about 450 kg of sand per year. How much sand will a reef with 85 parrotfish produce in a year?

The wombat is the only animal known to create cube-shaped poop. They stack them up to mark their territory. The square shape is thought to keep them from rolling away. A wombat can produce about 90 droppings a day. If we count about 600 relatively fresh droppings, how long has a wombat been claiming the territory? Round your answer to the nearest whole day.

One of the more disgusting works of art was produced by Italian artist Piero Manzoni in 1961. He created 90 tin cans, each supposedly filled with 30 grams of the artist's poop! The cans were originally sold for their weight in gold. At \$63 per gram, how much did each can sell for originally? Recently, one can sold at an art auction for \$632,493. How much more is the can of poop worth now than when it originally sold?



