



トイレの歴史

- The first resemblance to the toilets today were found in the site of the Fujiwara Palace in Kashihara, Nara, the first location of the imperial city from 694 to 710.
- Various objects were used to clean such as seaweed, wooden sticks and leaves. Later on, toilet paper replaced those objects.
- Because of issues with the wastes from the growing population, an increased amount of sewage systems was installed to cope with waste products.
- By early 20th century, western style toilets were more widespread than traditional squat toilets.



Related Toilet Vocabularies

- ・ トイレットケース (n)
 - toilet case
- ・ 塵紙【ちりがみ】(n)
 - (1) (a) tissue
 - (2) toilet paper
- ・ トイレットペーパー (n)
 - toilet paper
- ・ 落し紙【おとしがみ】(n)
 - toilet paper
- ・ ウォッシュレット (n)
 - toilet seat with bidet functions
- ・ 便座【べんざ】(n)
 - toilet seat

Terminology

Different Terms for Washrooms

- ・ 洗面所【せんめんじょ】
- ・ 便所【べんじょ】
- ・ トイレ
- ・ お手洗【おてあらい】



Bathroom Features

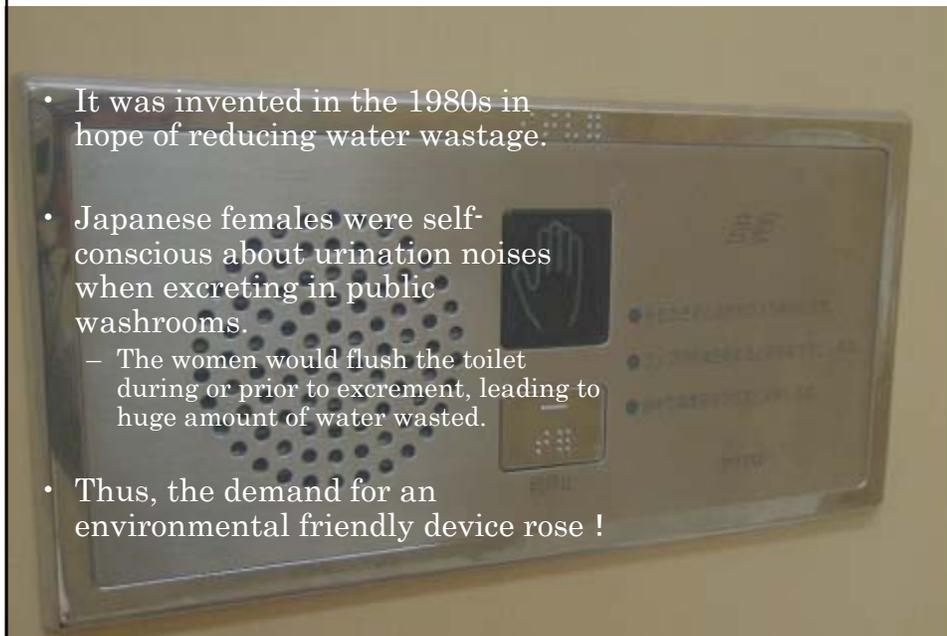
- ・ **Bidet toilets** are more common in newer locations throughout Japan.
- ・ Some washrooms had an equivalent amount of flush and squat toilets.
- ・ Unlike the Canada bathroom stalls, the stalls in Japan are fully enclosed.
- ・ Usually, there are instructions on how to use the squat toilets.
- ・ Many bathrooms are very considerate. They install baby seats within the stalls for mothers with babies.
- ・ Some bathrooms have emergency buttons beside the toilets.

Toilet Accessories



音姫

- It was invented in the 1980s in hope of reducing water wastage.
- Japanese females were self-conscious about urination noises when excreting in public washrooms.
 - The women would flush the toilet during or prior to excrement, leading to huge amount of water wasted.
- Thus, the demand for an environmental friendly device rose !



音姫

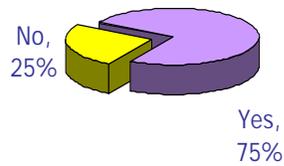
- Today, the most popular brand is called 音姫.
 - It means “sound princess.”
- It was named after the Japanese Goddess, 乙姫 (おとひめ).
- The brand name is commonly misused as a general name for the device.
 - similar to the “Coke” phenomenon.



Survey

We surveyed a mix of 20 female foreign and local students and asked how frequently they use the Sound Princess device.

Frequency of 音姫 Usage



Conclusions

- Differences in toilet habits amongst the student population indicated that they were due to cultural differences.
- For example, Canadian students found that it was unnecessary to utilize the Sound Princess; whereas local students believe it is a habitual behavior.
- A fellow Korean student pointed out that Sound Princesses are common in Korea as well. In both Korea and Japan, the major department stores and malls are all equipped with the Sound Princess.
- The Sound Princess is an example of a unique Japanese invention that resulted from cultural needs.

Sink-Toilet Combination

- The sink above the toilet tank is a very intelligent invention in many ways. The main purpose is for the user to wash hands. However there are more advantages to the sink than it appears.
 - When the toilet is flushed, the sink is automatically turned on. Therefore the user will not have to turn on the tap with potentially unsanitized hands.
 - The water the user used to wash hands is recycled into the toilet tank and saved for later flush usage. This is very an efficient method of saving water.
 - It saves space. The host family that Jenny stayed over at had such a toilet and no normal faucet. The toilet was separated from the shower room and it was just a “sink toilet” by itself in a small room.

Environmentally Friendly Techniques

- Some toilets contain faucet sinks. This feature allows for less water wastage.
- The flush button has features that allow you to adjust the amount of water used to flush
- Some toilets have toilet washer fluid in the stalls. This would lead to less toilet paper wastage.
- Bidet washers save toilet paper usage.
- Toilets have no tanks when compared to other countries such as Canada.



Traditional Squat Toilets

Traditional toilets found at the Old Folks House Museum:



Toilet house



Hole in ground as a toilet



Old sewage system



Squat toilets

男子トイレの便器



- Similar to Canadian urinals.
- Urinals at Senshu University.

トイレのブランド

- National, ToTo, and INAX(Satis) are the three main brands for toilets in Japan.

– Toto is the biggest one.

National



TOTO

- Because of the size of Japan and its limited resources, the toilet companies' marketing strategies are all focused on promoting space, water, noiseless toilets.

Tankless トイレ



- Most Japanese toilets do not have the tanks anymore. Even the toilets at 研修館, which is an old building, are without the tanks.
- The tankless design apparently helps saving water.
- The three major toilet companies sell mainly tankless toilets. However in Canada and the U.S. the tank toilets are still the dominant ones. And washlets are not sold in Canada, unless they are imported, which is rarely done.

Waterless Toilets

- There is a new kind of toilet introduced in North America that I have not yet seen in Japan. It is called a “**waterless toilet.**”
 - It uses aerobic decomposition and evaporation to convert human wastes into hygienically safe humus.
 - It basically acts like a compost.
 - It costs about \$1800 US.



INAX sells a SATIS toilet (the whole set) for around \$2800 to \$3000 US.

- Japanese toilets are not cheap but they serve many more functions than Western toilets.
- The bidets sold in the US are just toilets with simple water jets.
 - They do not have fancy functions like odour remover and automatic lid cover.
- Even the appearance of Japanese toilets are better than the Canadian ones.
 - National is introducing toilets with colours, so that toilets will not longer be just the traditional boring white colour.



Automatic lid cover



odour remover

