

# THE MINE TOILET CAR

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The mine toilet car, sometimes also called the crapper car or the potty car, was a mobile underground lavatory facility for miners. Such cars were usually used only in mines too deep and extensive for miners to conveniently visit surface facilities when necessary, and in mines employing sufficiently large mining crews to render fixed underground toilets impractical.

Toilet cars were generally made of steel and cast iron riveted or bolted together. A valve at the bottom could be opened for flushing and cleaning by turning a hand-wheel on top. Almost all such cars were two-seaters with hinged lids and a step made of wood and steel that could be folded up. Most toilet cars measure about 39 inches long, 28 inches wide (excluding the step), and 46 inches from the top of the track to the top of the valve wheel. A nice example is currently on exhibit on the front lawn of the Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum. The drawings shown here are from a 1912 hardware catalog of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.

