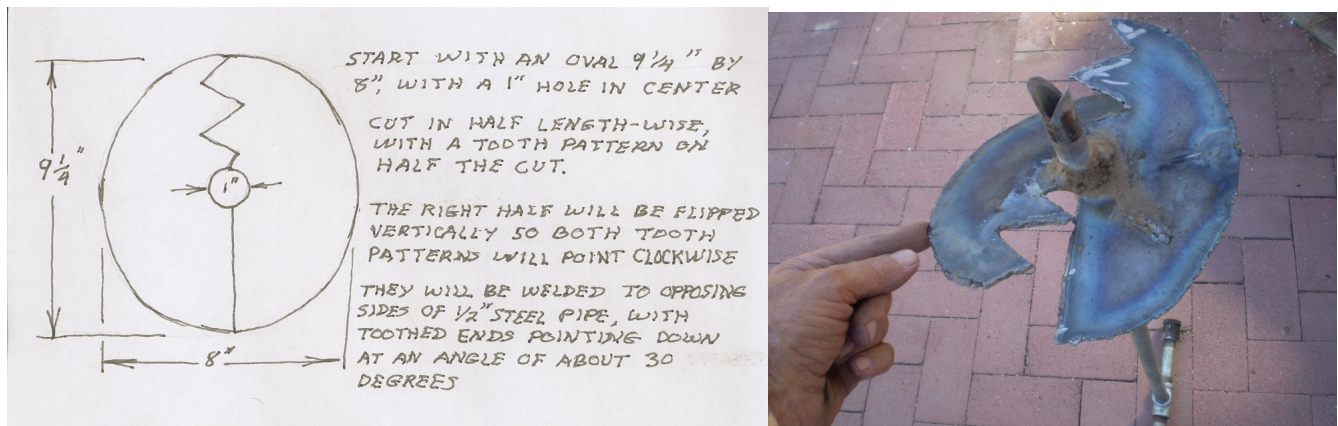


8-inch Auger

Sanitation is a major concern among the homeless, and the default is nothing at all. The quantum difference between this and mainstream living is so vast that it is pointless to think in terms of mainstream practices when considering a solution.

This simple tool – at least an earlier version of it – has made the difference between surface deposits, and sanitary odor-free disposal. This is huge under conditions of spontaneous homeless camps lacking in organization and facilities.



When a hole – typically 5 or six feet deep – is available, a little earth kicked in after each usage eliminates insects and odors. Privacy and dignity are facilitated in that now there is a single location, so it becomes practical to put up a temporary screen. A single auger such as this can serve hundreds of people, producing multiple holes as needed.

This particular model proved to be very efficient in digging the holes, but has a drawback in that the earth falls off the surfaces easily upon withdrawal. A short piece of 8" pipe welded to the upper side would help contain the earth. Another possible solution would be to use a short unattached piece of sheet metal pipe that would ride above the cutters and contain the earth as it is loosened.



Notice that the end of the short piece of pipe on the bottom has been cut to a double point. This simple hacksaw operation can make it a lot easier to dig than having a flat end that must be simply forced into the ground.

Having the cutter head removable makes it a lot easier to store, and to work on when repairs or modifications are needed.

Theoretically, there would be no limit to the depths such a hole could be made, if additional sections were laboriously added and removed during each cycle of digging. It would have the potential of creating a well.

In a sanitation application however, I would recommend going no more than 5 or 6 feet, to avoid the risk of polluting ground water.