

The Scoop on Poop

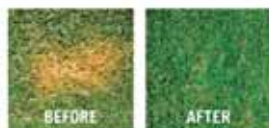
It's smelly and not pretty but poop is a reality for all dog owners. What to do with those nuggets left behind in your own backyard? Scooping backyard poop and depositing into a general compost bin is one solution. Poop can also be broken down in worm farms, however, its not recommended that you use these worm tailings or general compost around your veggie patch. Composting is a much more green alternative to bagging it and throwing into the trash.

Can you imagine how much poop is improperly disposed of each year? Dog waste poses a threat to our water quality, and in the mid 1990s, scientists perfected methods for tracking the origin of nasty bacteria in streams and seawater. The finger of blame was squarely pointed to dogs and their lazy owners reluctant to pick up after pooping pooches. Some of the bacteria harboured in dog poo include E. coli, faecal coliform bacteria, salmonella and giardia. As recently as 2005, Melbourne's Yarra River was a hot spot for large amounts of e-coli and it was estimated that 90 tonnes of dog poop was routinely making its way into the river.

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Dog friendly San Francisco has the poop scooped by turning its canine residents' waste into biofuel. It may seem a little far-fetched but the concept is to harness the power of mutt-methane so that it can be used to heat homes and generate electricity. 6,500 tonnes of dog poop is produced in the San Francisco Bay area every year. Rather than view this waste as a problem, San Francisco's waste management contractor, Norcal Waste, saw this as an opportunity for the already environmental city to go greener.

Out and about, it's vital that dog owners pick up after their dogs. Many councils offer dog-waste bins and bags at our local parks so there's really no excuse not to scoop. Most of us are quite okay with using a bag and our own natural scooper, our hands, to do poop pick-up. However, we know that there's a whole bunch of fussy people who have an aversion to that warm, mushy feeling through a thin piece of biodegradable plastic. If there's not a bin handy, there's the quandary of what to do with it. Here are just a few of the poop pick-up solutions readily available.



Space age Clean-up Claw

Keeping it at arm's length is Hyper Product's Clean-up Claw for people who don't want to get up close and personal to poop. Biodegradable bags are contained in the handle and pop up like poop-pick-up tissues. Bags attach with ease and all you have to do is release the Claw and it catches the poop. Bags can then be easily plopped into a bin with the quick release action. If you thought it impossible to get the kids involved in poop pick-up then this may be the fun factor they need.



An eze-walking solution from NZ

The ezeleash is an invention from across the pond from our Kiwi cousins. This leash conceals poop bags and has a spray pump full of hand sanitiser. The leash has a small pocket to store a phone or emergency money for a latte. We were surprised to find out that in some council areas in New Zealand, you're liable for fines if you can't produce a poop bag when walking your dog.



Pack it away with the PooPod

Does defecation meet innovation with this poo-pick-up-portal? If you've ever been walking the dog, picked up the poop then been at a loss as to where to stash the bag, this could be the poop storage solution for you. This device is the handle on your dog's leash (the one supplied is a little flimsy) and has poop bags at the ready for speedy pick-up. A scented cavity can store your load until you're ready to make a deposit into a garbage bin. Comes in two sizes and several colour options like basic black, camo green and dolly pink. rrp \$35.95 for the small version or \$39.95 for the bulkier option.



Get down & funky with the Pooper Scooper

This fully self-contained poop-scooping monster has hungry jaws for easy pick-up. The unit comes with earth-friendly biodegradable bags and has a clever dispensing system so that you can tug and tear off each one. Simple in design, it's simple to use and is a convenient, mess-free tool. rrp \$14.95

Stockist info

Clean-up Claw ph: J. Leutenegger (02) 9558 3055
 Funky Pets Pooper Scooper ph: (03) 5441 2899 www.funkyproducts.com.au
 DOOG Walkie Belt ph: (02) 9818 3309 www.doog.com.au
 Poo Pod ph: 0420 240 294



DOOG Walkie Belt

The DOOG (Dog Owners Outdoor Gear) Walkie Belt is for the style-conscious dog-walker. Not so much a great dog-walking necessity, this nifty accessory will make every dog-walker feel like a dog-walking superhero with its well-designed pockets, purpose-designed poo bag dispensers and hygienic handy wipes. You can go hands-free with its well-designed features including places to put keys, treats and even a place to fit your iPod. Made for people who want it all without wearing something ugly and bulky, the DOOG Walkie Belt recently won a highly prestigious award for most innovative product. Comes in a variety of cool colour combos as well as all-weather fabric choices. Refills for bags and wipes are also available. rrp \$39.95

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