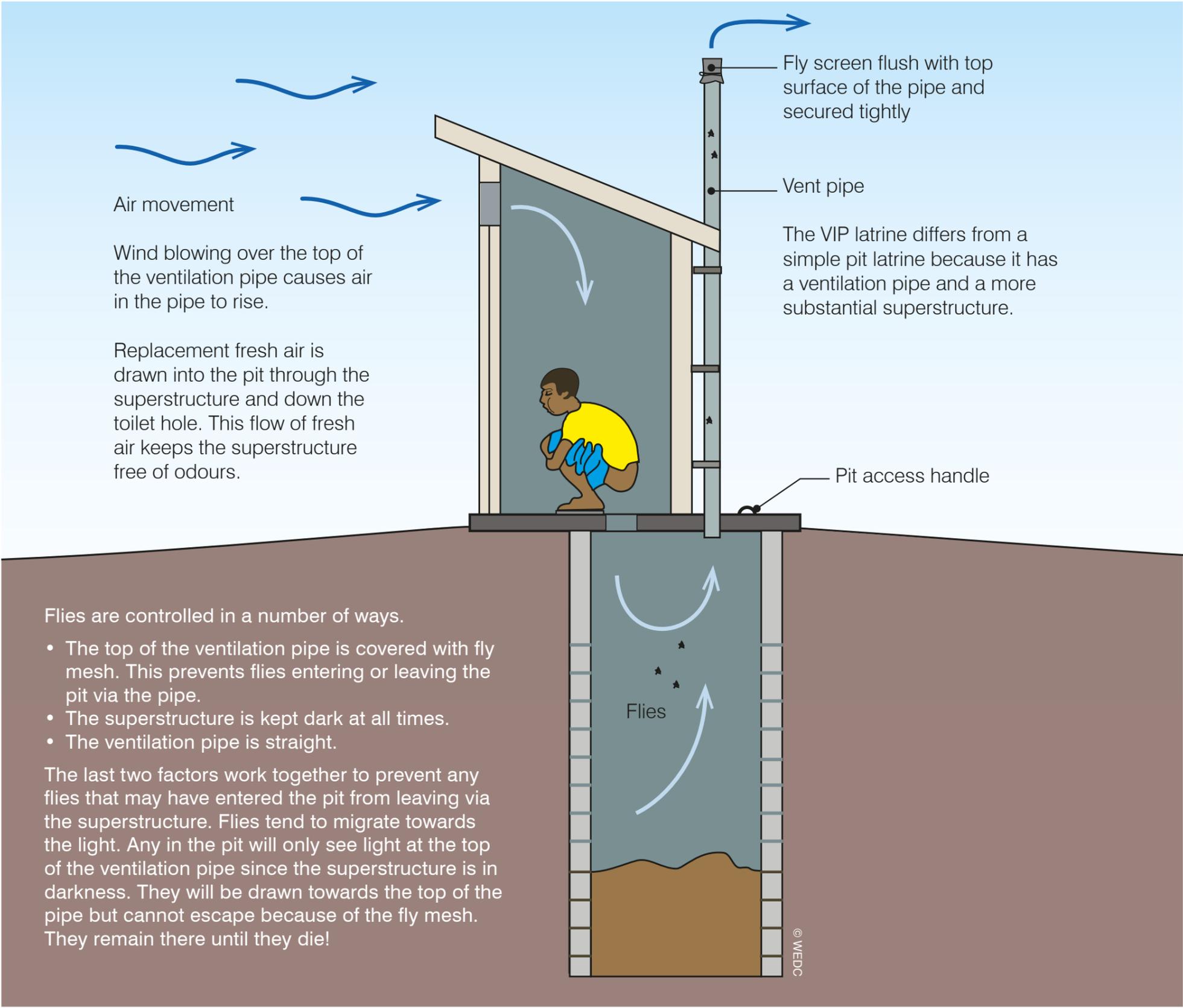


Ventilated, improved pit latrines (VIP latrines)

Solid materials such as newspaper, corn cobs, leaves, sticks or stones used for anal cleansing are not suitable for use with pour-flush toilets as the water seal is likely to become blocked or broken. However, the addition of a vent pipe to a simple pit latrine is an alternative way of reducing the nuisance of flies in the cubicle if the cubicle is kept clean. This type of latrine is called a ventilated, improved pit (VIP) latrine. There are a number of designs to suit different situations but they all work in much the same way.



Flies are controlled in a number of ways.

- The top of the ventilation pipe is covered with fly mesh. This prevents flies entering or leaving the pit via the pipe.
- The superstructure is kept dark at all times.
- The ventilation pipe is straight.

The last two factors work together to prevent any flies that may have entered the pit from leaving via the superstructure. Flies tend to migrate towards the light. Any in the pit will only see light at the top of the ventilation pipe since the superstructure is in darkness. They will be drawn towards the top of the pipe but cannot escape because of the fly mesh. They remain there until they die!