When faeces are stored in the absence of moisture (e.g. urine or anal cleansing water), they dehydrate into a coarse, crumbly, white-beige, material or powder and can be used as a soil conditioner.

Dehydration is very different from composting as the organic material is not degraded or transformed, only the moisture is removed through the addition of drying materials after defecation and proper ventilation and time. Through dehydration faeces can reduce in volume by