

Wo ist die Toilette?

Lavatories in Germany have their own peculiarities as well. Because Germans are so environmentally conscious, they often have double-flush toilets. These toilets don't flush twice, but actually have an option for a big flush or a little flush. Water use remains a key component of Germany's conservation efforts, and this option allows the toilet user to exercise his environmentally conscientious attitude even in the most persnickety way. Along these same lines, Germans don't want you to linger too long in the shower either. To combat this, most showers have the shower half-wall. Instead of a shower-curtain or a full-length glass wall, Germans have given you the swinging half-length wall. The half-wall sits along the side of the shower or bathtub, theoretically to help keep water from spraying out of the tub. However, since it is only half-length and doesn't seal entirely along the tub, the water inevitably ends up on the floor. I've never quite figured out why they don't put in full-length shower curtains, but I'm sure there is some very good German reason for it.

Public Restrooms
Die Toilette

11/6/05

PRETTY POTTIES

Switzerland is renowned as one of the richest, cleanest and most efficient countries in the world.

Now, authorities in Geneva are bringing the city's public conveniences up to scratch — at a cost of \$13 million for just 35 new toilets, Swiss daily Le Matin reported Tuesday.

Each sparkling new facility is designed by a different architect at a cost of \$313,000 — about the same as a one-bedroom, city center

apartment.

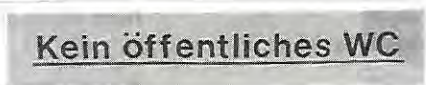
Three of the toilets have already been installed.

"Inside they are functional and equipped to a high sanitary standard," the city council said on its Web site. "On the outside, each public toilet is different and adapted to its surroundings."

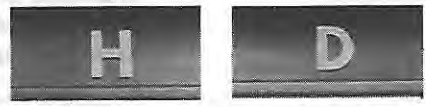
Patrons will be charged 42 cents for each visit to the self-cleaning toilets, which are accompanied by music inside.

TEST YOURSELF

1 Even if you're not sure what öffentliches means what conclusion would you draw from this sign?



2 If you can't find the sign Männer which of these would be the right one?



3 Would this door lead to the 'Ladies'?



4 What does this mean?

