Night Soil Treatment and Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems in Japan

There are three major domestic wastewater treatment systems in Japan, which can be classified into "Sewerage system," "Rural sewerage system" and "Johkasou system," according to the type of wastewater treated, the facility size and administrative support. Apart from these systems, there are two systems for night soil treatment: “Tandoku-shori Johkasou” and “Night soil storage tank.” New installations of Tandoku-shori Johkasou were forbidden from 2001, and night soil storage tanks are no longer installed and are gradually being phased out.

Figure 11 Major night soil and domestic wastewater treatment systems in Japan

Column 4 Evolution of vehicles used for night soil transportation

A two-wheeled cart in 1950s
The first small vacuum truck in 1960s
A normal vacuum truck
A vacuum truck with concentrating function