ODY
Healthy Hygiene for Everyone

Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) is a neglected sanitation topic in emerging markets, and menstrual waste disposal is particularly absent in many shared and public settings. Waste streams are growing with increased urbanization and access to disposable products. Meet ODY. Our safe and discreet disposal solution expands necessary options for women and girls who menstruate, supports better health and prioritizes a clean environment.

Key features
ODY is a fully automated sanitary pad disposal unit engineered to provide dignity and privacy, waste reduction and safe hygiene.

• Thermally treats menstrual waste, producing limited emissions and minimal ash.

• Batch processes up to 10 pads at a time irrespective of moisture content.

• Safety features include insulated surface, user standby during operation and automated shutdown.

• Current co-fire is LPG with plans for testing other fuels.

• Compact design allows for wall or floor mounting.

• Designed for use in shared and public settings, including schools, airports, bus and train stations, cinemas, markets, malls, hotels, factories, restaurants, public toilets, apartments, dormitories, and communities.

• Remote monitoring and service notifications available.

• Investigating use with other materials such as diapers and medical waste.

In India, an estimated 121 million women dispose of 113,000 tons of menstrual hygiene waste annually.

WaterAid/India
Trip bottom line
Our design approach integrates the triple bottom line.

Social and Health Benefits
Support MHH initiatives to improve women’s well-being

Environmental Risk Mitigation
Reduce waste volume with minimal emissions

Economic Gain
Minimize specialty parts to favor local manufacturing

Status of development
Market development and product evaluation has inspired the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to initiate consultation on creating health, safety and performance standards for decentralized MHH appliances. We began field testing ODY in India in March 2021.

Positive impact
Affordable menstrual hygiene disposal and treatment in shared public settings has numerous benefits:
- Provides dignity, safety and privacy for physical and emotional well-being.
- Facilitates mobility and confidence for participation in work and school.
- Ensures toilets, sewers and drainage remain operational.
- Delivers environmental improvement when waste is properly disposed of and thermal treatment is effectively controlled.
- Encourages environmental and safety standards for decentralized MHH appliances in public spaces.

For more information
Edgard Ngaboyamahina, PhD, MBA
Duke University Center for WaSH-AID
edgard.ngaboyamahina@duke.edu
https://washaid.pratt.duke.edu