

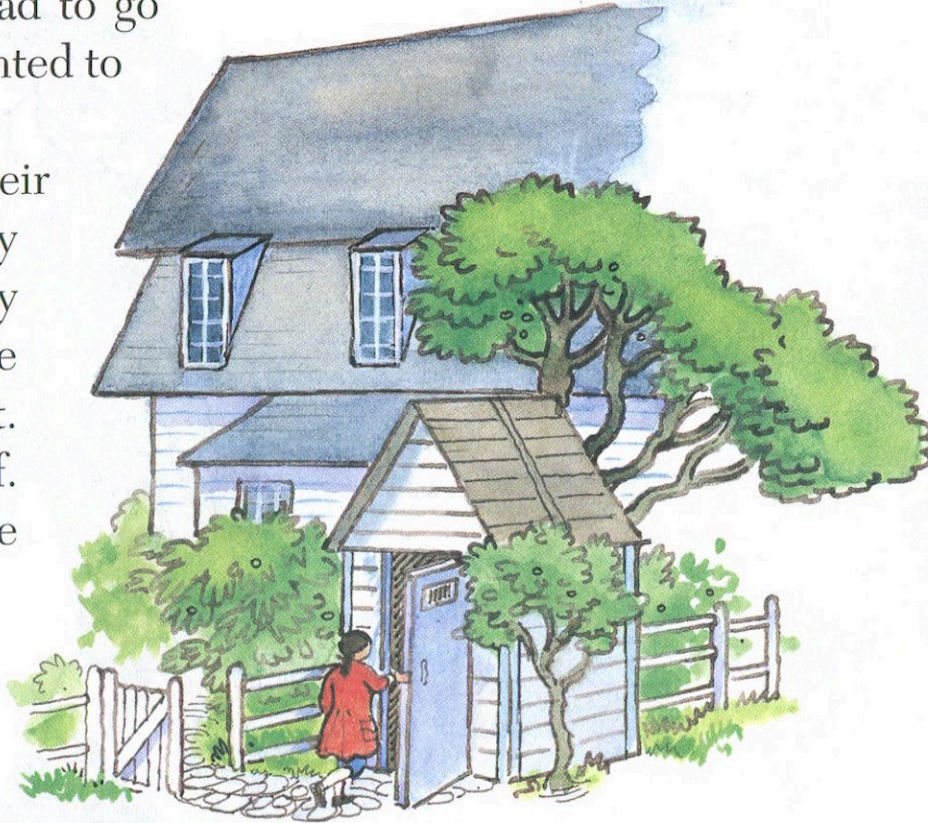
Where was the bathroom?

There were no bathrooms.

What? Isn't a bathroom necessary? Absolutely. That's why there was a small hut behind each Williamsburg home. It was called the *necessary*. There was also a chamber pot under the bed for emergencies and cold nights.

In 1770, even the most elegant house in Williamsburg was without hot or cold running water. Someone had to bring water inside or you had to go out to the well when you wanted to wash your hands.

Some people did brush their teeth in colonial times. They either used a toothbrush they bought at the store or a piece of chewed licorice root. Flossing was unheard of. That may have been one



reason why apothecaries cleaned and pulled teeth and did other dental work.

Keeping clean was a hard job. Bathing meant carrying in water from the well, heating the water, then scrubbing up and wiping off before the water got cold. So if you lived in colonial Williamsburg, you wouldn't have taken a bath very often. Between times, some people doused themselves with lavender water.

