

A male passenger reported that on his 1906 ship there were seven lavatories to be shared by 2,200 steerage passengers—five for men and only two for women. If even a minimal 40% of the passengers were women and children, they would share their restroom with approximately 440 others. The five male facilities would average about 260—or about half as crowded as the women's rooms. Since the male lavatories were described as "exceedingly small and cramped, with the result that these places were simply packed, jammed to the doors, an hour before breakfast," the women's restrooms can easily be imagined to be an impossible situation.

While steamers relieved passengers of the obligation of bringing sacks of food, there nonetheless were problems in this area, too. Differing national tastes were ignored, and the food in steerage often was served in an unappetizing manner, sometimes within sight and smell of the seasick passengers. The incognito investigator reported:

The white bread, potatoes and soup, when hot, were the only foods that were good ... The meats 'were generally old, tough, and bad smelling ... The vegetables were often a queer, unanalyzable mixture, and therefore avoided. The butter was rarely edible . . . Breakfast cereals, a food foreign to most Europeans, were served in an abundance of water. During the twelve days only about six meals were fair and gave satisfaction. More than half of the food was always thrown into the sea.

Weaterford Doris (1995). *Foreign and Female: Immigrant Women in America, 1840-1930, Facts on File*, New York, σελ.282