

## Restroom/Toilet (*Kawaya*)

Just before the edge of the veranda in front of the garden of the Shimizu Family House is a restroom/toilet (*kawaya*). The *kawaya* was reserved for guests, while the family typically used a separate location. As was typical of the Edo period (1603–1867), the toilet is made of wood and built low for use in a squatting position. While to modern eyes this may look inconvenient, contemporary garments (primarily the kimono) could be easily pulled up, making its use convenient at the time.

It is dark inside the *kawaya*, so insects do not gather, and the toilet has a wooden lid to close it off when not in use. A container with water and a scoop stands right outside, allowing guests to wash their hands on the spot.