

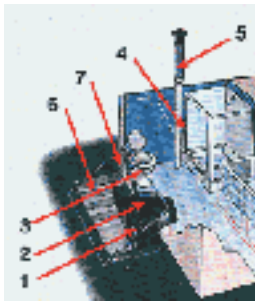
How compost toilets work

Wastewater is what we call the water produced from the toilet, kitchen, bathroom and laundry. There are pathogens and nutrients in this water that need to be treated, otherwise if it can into contact with people it could make them ill, and could pollute the environment.

Using a composting toilet is an especially sensible way to conserve resources, such as energy and water. This type of toilet uses little or no water and transforms human waste to valuable compost. It has its own waste treatment system, so it doesn't need a conventional septic system.

Below the seat, or outside the bathroom, is a large externally vented container in which aerobic (oxygen-hungry) microbes break down waste materials. The compost has no odour, because it is aerated. The material breaks down to around 90% of its original volume, leaving an environmentally safe compost that can be used in a garden.

A composting toilet uses no water, has no odours and produces around 20 kilograms per year of environmentally safe compost.



1. Composting chamber ("Rota-Loo")
2. Waste Chute
3. Toilet Pedestal
4. Vent Pipe
5. Solar-Flo Vent Extractor
6. Access to Rota-Loo cellar
7. Clear Solar Weather Roof

Aerobic composting requires some oxygen and heat and a very little liquid. This is to evaporate water in the waste and to aid in the composting process.

Oxygen flow is provided by a fan and vent pipe. There are no odours in the toilet room as the fan pulls air down the toilet pedestal. The compost chamber draws in fresh air and exhausts air to the outside.

Heat can be generated from an internal source or drawn from an external one. The internal source is an immersion heater fitted into the bottom of the tank. An external heat source may involve a vent to draw air from the roof space or a black poly pipe heated in the sun.

Cleaning

A compost toilet generally has no flush. The waste aperture is large enough to prevent most marking. Any marking can be cleaned with a brush and a little water. However, disinfectant cannot be put into a compost toilet as it would kill the helpful aerobic bacteria.

Rota Loo

Most of the information on this page was drawn from the literature of Environment Equipment, our preferred compost toilet manufacturer. Please take the time to visit their site at www.rotaloo.com