

Composting Toilets "The Inside Outhouse"

Composting toilets have been around for many years. They can account for up to a 40% reduction of water use in a normal household. If all conditions are ideal, a composting toilet can biologically decompose human waste effectively. More often, conditions are not ideal and these toilets generate significant odor

and **They Stink.**

How do I eliminate odors? Ineffective carbon filters and exhaust fans are commonly used to draw the odors away. To draw the odors away, you must exhaust the air using a fan. Sometimes an electric heater is used to speed up biological activity, but **these are energy thieves.**

Even with the reduction of toilet flushing, household water use figures indicate a significant amount of water is needed for normal domestic pursuits such as bathing, clothes washing, food preparation, and handwashing. Recent epidemiological studies indicate that "greywater" generated by these other uses untreated, can cause public health problems. What do I do with the rest of that water? It still must be treated so **you still need a septic system.** Minnesota Law allows for a 40% reduction in the sizing of a sewage treatment (septic) system when composting toilets are used.

Does a 40% reduction in size mean a 40% reduction in the cost of the sewage treatment system?

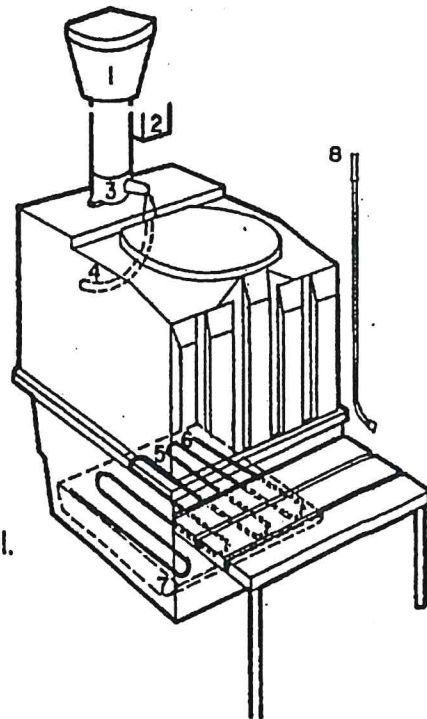
Unfortunately no, you may see a 20% reduction in cost, but setup costs, tank, pump and materials costs are still there. Why not put in a complete system up front?

Do we recommend composting toilets?....Not Generally.

They may have value in some applications but they are a high-profit device, easily marketed and generally, the purchaser has little recourse when they do not perform. Retrofitting to a complete system later is expensive.

COMPOSTING TOILET

1. Ventilator Cover with fine-mesh net to prevent flies and insects from entering.
2. Transformer with switch.
3. Fan to evacuate all odor.
4. Distributor to spread input.
5. Heating Coil to warm and evaporate liquid.
6. Thermostat placed inside the heating coil to control the heat level.
7. Collecting Tray to hold decomposed material.
8. Scraper for use when emptying



All biological toilets must have the compost removed periodically.

The frequency—which depends upon the type of toilet and the number of people using it—might vary from three weeks to once per year. A biological toilet requires frequent examination and care so that it will continue to function in a satisfactory manner. Care and maintenance requirements vary with the different brands of toilets.

Standards and testing programs for the performance of biological toilets have been established in Norway. It is recommended that you purchase only those composting toilets that have received an inspection certificate from the testing laboratory in Norway and include information on the capacity, electrical demand, cleaning frequency and other such information.

It is advisable to obtain an accurate cost estimate from the supplier of the model you are interested in, as well as information about energy consumption, installation, maintenance and replacement. Energy costs may be appreciable for the year-round use of a composting toilet. The prices of composting toilets may range from \$750 to \$3,000, plus installation.