

## 4.6 Composting Toilet

Revision: July 18, 2013

### 4.6.1 Description

Composting toilets are those within a dwelling that store and treat nonwater-carried human urine and feces and small amounts of household garbage by bacterial decomposition. The resultant product is compost.

### 4.6.2 Approval Conditions

1. Water under pressure shall not serve the dwelling unless a public sewer or another acceptable method of on-site disposal is available.
2. Units are restricted to the disposal of human feces, urine, and small quantities of household garbage.
  - a. Household garbage should be limited to the manufacturer's recommendations. Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and nonbiodegradable products (e.g., plastics) should not be disposed of in a composting toilet.

### 4.6.3 Design

1. All materials used in toilet construction must be durable and easily cleanable. Styrene rubber, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and fiberglass are examples of acceptable materials.
2. Design must demonstrate adequate resistance to internal and external stresses.
3. All mechanical and electrical components should be designed to operate safely and be capable of providing continuous service under reasonably foreseen conditions such as extreme temperatures and humidity.
4. Toilet unit must be capable of accommodating full- or part-time use.
5. Continuous positive ventilation of the storage or treatment chamber must be provided to the outside.
  - a. Ventilation components should be independent of other household ventilation systems.
  - b. Venting connections must not be made to room vents or to chimneys.
  - c. All vents must be designed to prevent flies and other insects from entering the treatment chamber.

### 4.6.4 Compost Disposal

1. Compost material produced by a composting toilet may be utilized as a soil amendment additive.

2. Compost material used as a soil additive should be incorporated into the native soil immediately after application.
3. Sewage products should be allowed to compost to the point that they are not identifiable as human waste prior to use as a soil additive.
4. It is recommended that nondegraded waste products either be transferred to a second compost container prior to use as a soil additive for further breakdown or disposed of in an approved landfill.
5. Composted toilet waste should not be used as a soil additive for edible fruit or vegetable plants.

*Note:* Toilets, as plumbing fixtures, are regulated by the Idaho Division of Building Safety, State Plumbing Bureau. Current plumbing code prohibits the use of composting toilets without the permission of the health district. Proof of permission will be provided through a permit issued by the health district.