



November 2002

RE: Compost toilets.

Thank you for your interest.

We supply and sometimes install a compost toilet of the large chamber type rather than the sort that fit in the bathroom as a complete unit (eg Biolet etc).

Advantages of the larger style compost toilet include simplified maintenance and physical and biological robustness. Larger systems do not require heating elements or frequent emptying. The down side is the size and cost and difficulty in retrofitting.

The system we are developing with DOWMUS Australia features a specially developed porcelain pedestal, 3W ventilation fan (approx £1.50/year electricity use) and other details that help it reach the 'porcelain standard' of the conventional WC but with less smell, no splash and no flush noise.

The compost chamber is typically 2.0m long by 1.2m wide and 1m high. For new-build the chamber can be sunk in the ground (fig. 1) but retrofit installations require a basement or extension (figs. 2 and 3). Where more height is available a taller chamber will reduce the frequency of 'peak knocking'.

The chamber would be constructed by your builder to our drawings, typically from concrete block with a cast concrete lid. The internals, pedestal etc are supplied as a kit from ourselves costing around £900 plus vat depending on final specification.

The chamber requires a vent pipe (110mm diameter) from the chamber to above ridge height rather like the conventional 'stink pipe' of a flush system.

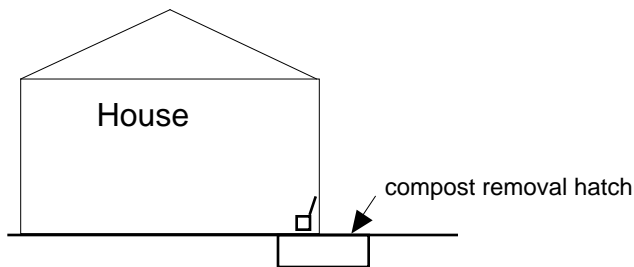


Fig. 1. Chamber in ground under building.

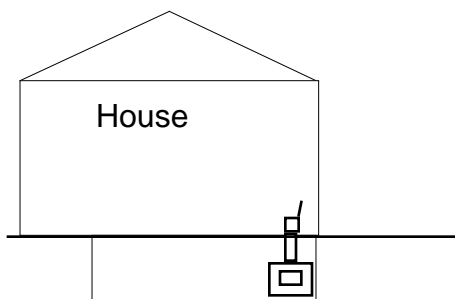


Fig.2. Chamber in cellar.

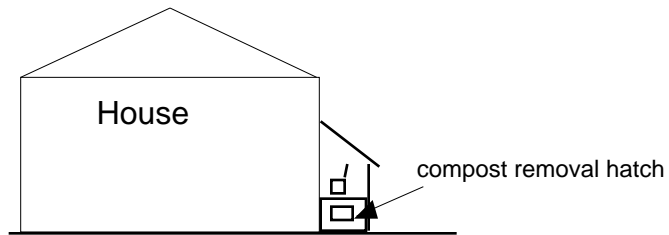


Fig. 3. Chamber in extension/outside.

The reasons for choosing to use a compost toilet are many and if you would like to discuss the merits of various systems given your requirements and budget then please email us. The costs range from £5 for a DIY bucket toilet to several thousand pounds (the chairman of a multi million pound company in London uses a bucket toilet as does the artist Hundertwasser!).

Our book 'Sewage Solutions' published by CAT and available from ourselves for £11, cheque payable to 'Elemental Solutions', covers most aspects of sewage, compost loos, water conservation, nutrient recovery etc.

The Centre for Alternative Technology, CAT (Tel: 01654-702400) have books and plans for DIY compost toilets.

<http://www.compostingtoilets.org> is the main web presence for this subject.

I look forward to hearing from you if any of the above is of interest.

Sincerely

Mark Moodie

Director – Solution Elements Ltd