



COMPOST TOILETS – WDC DISTRICT

WDC GUIDANCE INFORMATION

COMPOSTING TOILETS

Wairoa District Council supports the use and installation of composting / waterless toilets, as long as they meet the following:

Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) have the ultimate say over allowing you to use a Composting Toilet.

Therefore, the discharge of domestic waste and/or wastewater onto or into land and the associated discharge of odour from a composting toilet **MUST** meet the following conditions:

RULE 37

Must comply with Rule 37 from HBRC (RRMP), or Rule 28 (RCEP) if in coastal areas :
consentadvisor@hbrc.govt.nz or (06) 835 9200.

<https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Consents/Permitted-Activity-Checklist.pdf>

Compost Toilet must also adhere with WDC Rules:

- The discharge shall occur on the property where the composting toilet is located.
- The discharge has been aerobically composted for more than 12 months from the last addition of raw domestic wastewater.
- The discharge is not within 50m of a surface water body, the coastal marine area, gully, or bore used for water abstraction for potable supply.
- The discharge of odour is not offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the property.
- The discharge shall be stored in a way to prevent vermin from accessing.
- The point of discharge shall be no less than 600mm above the highest seasonal groundwater table.
- Minimum land size of no less than 2500m².

Additional information:

<https://www.level.org.nz/water/wastewater/on-site-wastewater-treatment/composting-toilets/types-of-composting-toilet/>

Grey water also needs to be addressed and in most cases will require consent.

<https://www.level.org.nz/water/wastewater/on-site-wastewater-treatment/greywater-recycling/greywater-systems/>



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Batch-type/Self-contained units:

Most small self-contained composting toilets are of the batch type. These have two or more bins. When one bin is full, it must be moved to a suitable place (generally outside) to allow composting to be completed. This generally takes 5–6 weeks. The material is buried, an empty bin replaces the full one and the process is repeated.

Batch type systems **MUST** be vented and may:

1. be heated
2. have mechanical ventilation that requires an electrical connection – 12-volt models are available and power consumption is generally low
3. require a vent pipe
4. require a connection to an on-site blackwater outfall for separated urine
5. require the toilet room to be maintained at a regular temperature.

Continuous systems:

Continuous systems have one chamber where all waste is received and stored until composting is completed. The finished compost is removed and buried.

A continuous system requires an underfloor space, and each pan must have its own chamber. Therefore, having more than one toilet may be difficult and expensive.

They may require:

1. a positive air pressure in the toilet room to avoid smells
2. an air inlet and exhaust which may be driven by convection, electric fan or solar heat (generally power consumption is low)
3. a means of draining excess liquid
4. access to a hatch for removal of finished compost
5. the addition (by the users) of organic bulking agents such as sawdust to aid the decomposition process.

Final Note

Every situation can be unique. Due to the complex system and the rules set out by the NZ Government, there are a lot of rules and checklists Council need to ensure are met. Therefore, we endeavour to cover off as much information as possible with you, but you, or we, might require more information during this process.

We would strongly encourage you to talk to the Hawkes Bay Regional Council before you proceed.

(06) 835 9200 or consentadvisor@hbrc.govt.nz

WDC Community Assets, Planning and Building departments before proceeding. Wairoa District Council departments are mindful and will try to make this process as easy as we can for everyone.

(06) 838 7309 or info@wairoadc.govt.nz / planning@wairoadc.govt.nz / consents@wairoadc.govt.nz

We are here to help!