

## Composting Toilets

### Guidance Document

### August 2017

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Composting toilets require specific approval in a water/wastewater permit through the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Divisions' [Regional Office Program](#), based on rules and regulations related to wastewater systems with flows of less than 6500 gallons per day ([Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rule](#), §1-922 Composting or Incinerating Toilets and Greywater Disposal Systems):

- 1) Composting toilets may be approved in place of conventional water carried toilets. Use of these toilets in buildings or structures and campgrounds is subject to review related to the adequacy of the particular unit for the proposed use.
- 2) All waste removed from a composting toilet shall be considered to be pathogenic.

Disposal of composting toilet waste ("compost") is subject to the requirements of Federal regulation under [40 CFR Part 503](#) and the [Vermont's Solid Waste Management Rules](#), with no exemption provided. The options for management of this waste include:

#### A. Reuse Options:

- 1) Direct land application – the "compost" may be land applied only after obtaining a Solid Waste certification requiring the full suite of process and product monitoring and testing to demonstrate compliance with the metal standards, pathogen reduction requirements, and vector attraction requirements. This permitting program is administered by the Residuals Management Section. Contact the [Residuals Management Section](#) for additional information.
- 2) "Indirect" land application – the "compost" can be buried on-site, in a location approved by the Agency that meets the minimum site conditions given in section §1-805 of the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (in a location meeting the criteria for a septic system leachfield and permitted under the site's water/wastewater permit). This permitting program is administered through the [DEC Regional Offices](#). Contact the Regional Engineer at the appropriate regional office (Essex Jct., Barre, Springfield, Rutland, or St. Johnsbury) for additional information.

#### B. Disposal Options:

- 3) Landfill – the "compost" can be bagged and disposed at a landfill or transfer station (destined for a landfill) without the need for a Solid Waste certification.
- 4) Wastewater Treatment Facility – the "compost" could be transported to a wastewater treatment facility and disposed of there (if the facility accepts it) without the need for a Solid Waste certification.

