



APPENDIX B

Compost Toilet Solids: Management Recommendations and Requirements

The 'solid' material that accumulates over time in a composting toilet is commonly called 'compost'; however this material does not meet Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations for 'General Use Compost.' These regulations are geared with ensuring that material that may have harmful pathogens is safe for human contact.

Although the 'solid' material in composting toilets may over time through natural biological processes become similar in quality to 'General Use Compost', in the absence of monitoring or analytical testing, there can be no surety that the material is safe to handle. In addition, in a composting toilet new human waste is continually being introduced into the composting pile. This creates the potential for 'older' composting material to be contaminated from contact with pathogens in 'fresh' material, and from the movement of liquids through the pile.

In summary, while we can say that the material in a composting toilet is undergoing the 'composting process,' there can be no certainty that the 'solids/composting material' will be safe to handle.

The following are management options for this semi-solid material.

OFFSITE REMOVAL

- Have the material hauled offsite by a licensed septage hauler for proper disposal.
- Bag this material for offsite removal with your other household waste.

ONSITE UTILIZATION

- The solids/composting material is generally prohibited from being used onsite. However, consideration may be given on a case by case basis for onsite utilization. Contact Jacob Robinson at the phone number below for more information on how to apply for approval for onsite utilization. Please note that the onsite utilization of compost solids is prohibited without our preapproval.

CAUTION

It is important to emphasize that the solid material that accumulates in your composting toilet may not be safe for human contact. Therefore it is recommended that appropriate measures be taken to prevent human contact with this material.

Contact your composting toilet representative for guidance on operation and maintenance issues including compost toilet liquids and solids management, and if you have concerns about the appropriate time to remove the solids from the composting toilet unit.

Maryland Department of Environment Contact: Wastewater Permits Program (410) 537-3778 or groundwaterpermits.mde@maryland.gov.

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