



Cochise County
Health and Social Services

Environmental Health Services Division

?? Frequently asked questions about:

Septic Tank/Conventional Disposal (4.02)
Composting Toilet (4.03) and other alternative systems

What do I need to do if I want to put in a composting toilet?

You will need Soil and Site Evaluator to design this system for you.

A qualified Investigator/Evaluator can be either:

- Arizona registered professional engineer
- Arizona registered professional geologist
- Arizona registered sanitarian
- Individual with a certificate of training from a course recognized by ADEQ



What brand of composting toilet can I use?

Refer to List of ADEQ Proprietary Products

http://static.azdeq.gov/pub/list_prop_products.pdf



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So...If you are considering a composting toilet the information below will also need to be provided:

- Composting toilet system manufacturer name
- Composting toilet system manufacturer address
- A copy of the manufacturer's warranty, and the specifications for installation, operation, and maintenance
- The product model number
- Calculations for the composting rate, capacity, and waste accumulation volume
- Documentation of listing by a national listing organization indicating that the composting toilet meets the stated manufacturer's specifications for loading, treatment performance, and operation has been attached (unless the composting toilet is listed under R18-9-A309(E) or is a component of a reference design approved by the Department)
- The design for the disposal including the location of the interceptor, the location and configuration of the trench or bed used for wastewater
- Describe the vector control method.
- Describe the planned method and frequency for disposing the composted human excrement residue.
- Describe the planned method for disposing of the drainage from the composting unit.
- The number of bedrooms in the dwelling or persons served on a daily basis, as applicable.
- The corresponding design flow of the disposal works for the wastewater.
- The results from soil evaluation or percolation testing that adequately characterize the soils into which the wastewater will be dispersed and the locations of soil evaluation and percolation testing on the site plan.



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dispersal, the location of connecting wastewater pipelines, and the location of the reserve area.

If I am putting in a composting toilet, will I still need a small septic system on my property?

Yes, you would need a small septic system since kitchen drain water is considered "gray water" in State of Arizona.



The definition of gray water is here R18-9-A701(5)

"Gray water" means wastewater that has been collected separately from a sewage flow and that originates from a clothes washer or a bathroom tub, shower or sink but that does not include wastewater from a kitchen sink, dish-washer or toilet. A.R.S. § 49-201(18).

Again, you would need a Soil and Site Evaluator to design the small septic system.

Once designs are complete; submit, apply, and pay for a Cochise County permit. See Cochise County Environmental Health 2021/2022 Summary of Fees.

Soil and Site Evaluator should have all the paperwork you need to apply for a permit through Cochise County.



Septic Scheduling Line (520) 432-9441