

Fact vs. Fiction

Disposing of waste through sewage systems is a lost opportunity to reuse a valuable resource for agriculture. Society's common misconceptions about dry composting toilets serve as one of the greatest obstacles for their widespread use.

Fiction: Human waste is unsafe to use as compost.

Fact: When given the proper amount of time to compost, all the harmful bacteria in human waste is killed.

Fiction: Because there is no water, dry composting toilets are bad for your health.

Fact: There is no scientific evidence supporting that the use of water is more sanitary.

Fiction: Dry composting toilets are just latrines.

Fact: Dry composting toilets are more advanced than latrines and require more maintenance.

Fiction: Dry composting toilets smell bad.

Fact: When owners maintain their toilet properly and have adequate ventilation, composting toilets have no more odor than a flushing toilet.



How to get started

For more information about dry composting toilets and how to install them, checkout CORCLIMA's blog post and their manual to have your own composting toilet.

Blog Post: [link](#)

Manual: [link](#)

About Us

We are the Monteverde Commission on Resilience to Climate Change (CORCLIMA). Our mission is to unite efforts in Monteverde to lower emissions, capture carbon and adapt to climate change.

Contact Us

CORCLIMA email:
climaticamonteverde@gmail.com
Web: corclima.org

A graphic for "DRY COMPOSTING TOILETS". The word "DRY" is in a large, bold, teal font, flanked by two yellow sun icons with rays. Below "DRY" are the words "COMPOSTING" and "TOILETS" in a larger, bold, teal font. The graphic is set against a white background with a light blue wavy border at the top and bottom.

DRY COMPOSTING TOILETS

An Introductory Guide to
Dry Composting Toilets

What is a dry composting toilet?

A dry composting toilet is a type of toilet that treats both solid and liquid human waste through composting without the use of water.

In the dry season, a lot of springs will dry up, so we've had to have water rationing ... people are not aware of how important it is to save water in Monteverde.
- a Monteverde resident



[Picture of a dry composting toilet]

COMPOSTING TOILETS

An eco-friendly alternative to flushing toilets

FLUSHING TOILETS WASTE WATER

For a family of five, the average amount of water wasted from flushing toilets is:



28% OF TOTAL WATER USE IS FROM FLUSHING TOILETS

(Rico, 2015)

Composting Toilets reduce toilet water usage by

100%

What could you do with 72,000 litres of water?

90 YEARS of adequate drinking water for the average female
480 SHOWERS per 150 litre shower

(Klainer, 1999) (Rico, 2015)

COMPOSTING TOILETS PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

97.5%

OF MONTEVERDE RESIDENTS HAVE SEPTIC SYSTEMS

97.8%

DISCHARGE GREYWATER DIRECTLY INTO THE ENVIRONMENT, DESPITE LAWS

(Brown, King, Papa, Sallaz, & Syrettson, 2008)

Composting Toilets SAFELY and NATURALLY treat waste!



Nutrients from waste are returned to the soil



[A representation of a composting toilet system]

How do they work?



Waste enters the dry composting toilet the same way as a flushing toilet. Since the designs require little to no water, it relies on gravity instead of water to move the waste.



The waste will break down within the tank. Additives, such as sawdust and leaves, aid the composting process.



After sitting for a minimum of six months, the compost can be used as fertilizer for vegetation.