

Compost Toilet System Designs

(adapted from Anand and Apul, 2014)

Self-contained: The toilet and the composting chamber form a single unit.	Central: A large central container on the floor beneath the toilet; it holds the compost and may be connected to several toilets.	Function
Single or Multi-chambered		Single: A single container holds the compost. Continuous composting (new fecal matter arrives at the top and composted matter is removed from the bottom).
		Multi: Two or more containers hold the compost. In the first chamber wastes undergo initial decomposition and undergo further composting in the second or third chambers. Allows for more capacity and batch composting (compost chambers cure without the addition of new fecal matter).
Electric or non-electric		Electricity can be used to power fans for ventilation and heaters (may be used to evaporate urine).
Water based or waterless		Water based units are used in Central systems where the pipe from the toilet to the compost chamber is angled. The 'water' may be a biodegradable soap that moves the wastes and cleans the toilet and pipe.
Urine separated or combined		Separation of the urine keeps it out of the compost chambers and it can be used as a fertilizer. This design lowers the amount of moisture in the compost and prevents too much ammonia in the compost.