

Separating Composting Toilets

An **environmental alternative** to a chemical loo, composting toilets are becoming increasingly popular in remote locations where there is a limited power and water supply or where no waste treatment is available.

Early composting toilets were known as 'long drops' where everything 'dropped' into a deep hole in the ground. Urine soaks into the soil leaving just the poo and toilet paper. When the pit is nearly full, you fill up the last bit with soil, leaving the poo to compost naturally in the ground. You then dig a new hole and start again. This type of composting toilet is often used in woodland and is sometimes called a 'tree bog'



Because we are too close to the river to compost in the ground this way, we have to collect the poo in a bin. When the bin is full, we take it away and compost it off-site. When you use a bin though, the wee can't soak away and it's the wee that makes the rest of it smell, so we need a way to keep the wee out of the bin. That's where the separating bit comes in:

Underneath the toilet seat is a blue urine separator. Wee goes into this separator, down the pipe and into a soak-away in the ground. It's important not to get toilet paper, poo or other solids in this urine separator as they will block the grill at the top of the pipe, causing the wee to overflow into the bin at the back, and make it smell, as does weeing directly into the bin at the back. Please make sure any lads in your family know not to do this: They should either sit down or use the urinals.



Designed in France for a beer festival, our composting urinals served us well from 2013 to 2022. In 2023 we replaced our urinals with a new urinal which came onto the market. Urine is diverted to a soak-away as in the toilets. They are not as fun as the straw-bale urinals but they are much easier to clean.

Separating Composting Toilets - What goes where?

Poo and toilet paper go through the hole into the bin at the back

Wee goes in the blue urine separator at the front, down the pipe and into a soak-away



* If you put toilet paper, or other solids, in the blue urine separator at the front, it will block the grill and cause the wee to overflow into the bin at the back and ...

* If you get wee in the bin at the back will make the solids wet and cause them to smell!



* For children with smaller bottoms, please use the child seat - to get things in the right place!

(* Gents, please sit down or use the urinals)

To keep the moths out there are no lights in the composting toilets - you'll need your torch when the light starts to fade!