

## Waterless toilets in churchyards

Conventional toilets need both a water source and sewage disposal to operate; for rural areas this makes provision of toilets more complicated. There is now a range of odourless waterless toilets which are not only water saving and avoid the use of chemicals, but also deal with sewage efficiently on site.

### **How does a waterless toilet work?**

Some toilets are **composting** and complete the whole process from use to compost within the container which takes around 6-12 months.

Others are **compost** toilets and occasionally require the solids to be transferred to a separate compost bin with carbon material (e.g. sawdust) away from the toilet.

The result is a safe compost that can be used for gardening.

Urine is diverted to a shallow soak-away pit and odours are taken out through a vent pipe. A small fan can run off a solar panel and battery.

### **Considerations?**

- Is the toilet accessible for wheelchair users?
- Will a new path need to be laid to access the toilet? If so, this can be included in the faculty application for the toilet.
- Will the toilet be available for use by the public or just unlocked for services and events?
- How near to the church will the toilet be? It is important that the toilet does not obstruct a window, impact the view of the church or be positioned underneath a waterspout.
- Make sure to leave a gap around the toilet shed so that maintenance can be easily carried out.
- How often will the toilet be used and by how many people? This will dictate the size.
- Will the toilet blend in with its surroundings? What colour will it be?
- Will there be a solar powered light?

## Costs?

- The cost of the toilet equipment and shed (some sheds need to be bought separately).
- The installation cost. The equipment supplier does not usually install itself but has a list of approved installers.
- The cost of planning permission (if required).
- The cost of archaeological input (if required).
- The cost of an access path (if required).

## Which grant providers can fund waterless toilets?

[The Benefact Trust](#)

[Garfield Weston Foundation](#)

[The Geoffrey Watling Charity](#)

## What permission do we need?

The installation of a waterless toilet in the churchyard will require a faculty. Applications are made through the Online Faculty System. Click [here](#) to register. The guidance notes for using the system can be found [here](#).

An application should include the following:

- A hand-drawn sketch of the churchyard and photos showing the proposed location of the toilet.
- An image of the toilet.
- Details about access, i.e. will there be a path and can wheelchair users use the toilet, and dimensions.
- PCC minutes approving the proposals.

The requirement for planning permission varies between local authorities and therefore it is important to check. Even if a faculty is granted, if planning permission is refused then the installation cannot go ahead.

## Waterless toilet suppliers:

[NatSol](#) - for a video tour of a Nat Sol waterless toilet click [here](#)

[Woo Woo Waterless Toilets](#)

[Wee Hooses](#) (an accessible shed will need to be bought separately from elsewhere)

## Some examples of waterless toilets in the Diocese:

- Holy Trinity Church, Loddon NR14 6EY
- All Saints' Church, Freethorpe NR13 3AH
- St Andrew's Church, Wickhampton NR13 3PB
- St Peter's Church, Kimberley NR18 9EY



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