

City of Bellingham Policy

Policy No. 2010-002

Title: Composting Toilets.

Code: 2009 Uniform Plumbing Code

Chapter: WAC 51-56-0600 Section 601.1

Level of Policy: Departmental

Date Issued: February 17, 2010

Developed by: Jim Tinner, CBO

Date Revised: N/A

Revised by: N/A

Approved by: Jim Tinner

Supersedes: All prior

See Also:

Purpose

To clarify the installation requirements for composting toilets.

Scope

All habitable buildings.

Definitions

Composting toilet: A human waste disposal system that utilizes a waterless or low-flush toilet in conjunction with a tank in which aerobic bacteria break down the waste.

Policy/Conditions

Composting toilets will be allowed to be installed in any habitable building unless prohibited by regulations not enforced by the City of Bellingham.

Composting toilets must be tested and listed by a nationally recognized testing agency. Tests must conform to NSF/ANSI Standard 41.

In restrooms accessible to employees or the public a permanent placard must be installed on the wall immediately behind composting toilets. The bottom edge of the placard must be between 35" and 48" above the floor. The placard will advise that a composting toilet is present and provide instructions for its use. Lettering on the placard will be no less than ¼" in height and easily read from an area in front of the toilet.

When rest rooms are required to be accessible, composting toilets in those rest rooms must also meet all accessibility requirements such as control locations, seat height, bowl geometry, etc.

When composting toilets are installed in a residence, permanent use and maintenance instructions must be provided to subsequent owners or tenants. The property owner is responsible for providing training to tenants in the proper use and care of composting toilets.

A statement notifying that the building contains composting toilets must be recorded on the permanent property record at Whatcom County.

Rationale

The construction industry, in concert with non-profit and governmental agencies, is looking for methods to reduce the impact of the built environment on public infrastructure. Composting toilets are one step toward that goal while providing a proven track record of safety and cleanliness.

References/Sources

NSF/ANSI Standard 41

WAC 51-56-0600

Appendix/Attachment