

Event Compost Loos

No Chemicals | No Water | No Smells | No Worries

These uniquely designed composting toilets are a portable dignified and environmentally sustainable sanitation solution for outdoor events.



Natural Event provides composting toilets to outdoor events.

Innovated by Hamish Skermer, an Australian music festival director, since 2002 he has designed and refined his system to meet the demands of outdoor events. Natural Event loos are perfect for sites with limited or no access to water or sewer, for events which wish to move away from chemical toilets, and for those that wish to prove their commitment to environmental sustainability.

Waterless: No water supply or water tankers are needed. No risk of overflow.

Chemical Free: Safe for the environment, no chemical handling hazards, safe for sewerage treatment works, no 'chemical' smell trying to mask sewage odours.

Efficient Transport: Drastically reduced truck movements and related congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. This is because no water needs to be carted in and out, and 150 compost loos fit on the same lorry as 26 portaloos!

Self-Levelling: They can be sited on a slope or un-level ground. They are unable to be tipped over!

Environmentally Sustainable: As well as the water, chemical and GHG reductions, the end product, compost, is a valuable resource and additionally prevents the use of chemical fertilisers.

Enhanced User Experience: The user adds sawdust after a visit, which works to eliminate odours. There's no chance of 'splash back'! #happycrappy

Art/Décor: They can provide a cultural opportunity for the event with artists to create door art and for the users viewing them.

Talking Point: They offer a talking point on environmental sustainability.

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What are the logistics?

Toilets arrive flat packed in a stillage, on a truck or a trailer. For more than 10 toilets we would request the use of a telehandler to get the stillage efficiently off our truck.

For smaller bookings, they will arrive in a trailer and in most cases can be hand-lifted, but of course a forklift is preferred.

We need vehicle access to the toilet site, unless additional labour can be supplied by the event to move the kit into position by hand or trolley.

Do you build the toilets or do we?

We're not IKEA! Even though they come flat packed, we assemble them, to include all plumbing and lighting. On some jobs, to make it more cost efficient for you, we may ask you to supply additional labour to help with the assembly.

How are they different to chemical loos?

Chemical porta-loos use water and highly concentrated chemicals known as biocides, which are often blue in colour. Biocides kill all pathogens, cancelling out the possibility of leveraging the 'good' bacteria that can create compost.





View of the loos with the doors off.

What happens with the toilet waste?

The user's 'deposit' is captured in a receptacle underneath the toilet block. The liquid is drained away and stored in IBCs. (1000L waste water tanks). We can provide them, but if you have them on-site for other wastewater reasons (such as traders or showers) it is more efficient if you provide them. The solid waste remains in the receptacle and we remove it after the event. If the event is long or busy enough a changeover of receptacles is done. We store the required empty receptacles behind each toilet.

What about hand-washing?

We provide alcohol gel hand sanitiser. The event can choose to also put a hand wash station in place.



Our 8 seat trailer unit available in Australia. We have a 40 seat trailer unit in the UK

Do you need power?

Yes. The liquid waste needs a pump. Our pump is 800w. We also provide festoon lighting with energy efficient LED bulbs. These also need power.

Toilet paper? Sawdust? Signage? Lights? Cleaning? Waste Removal?

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes and yes! These are often hidden costs or add-ons when hiring a traditional portable toilet. We have staff on-site at the event all day. We factor in 3 to 4 cleans per day. If you would like full time attendants these can be quoted additionally. The only 'extra' we charge is for transport. We route our toilets as efficiently as possible.





How large or small can blocks be?

Blocks can be as little as two toilets or as long as your site allows. The units are built one cubicle at a time. They have to be in a straight line, but can be built over undulating or uneven ground.

We require a back of house footprint of about 2.5m if mid-show change overs are required. If no changeovers are required during the event, the back of house can be a small as 1m. Space is required to position the liquid waste IBCs.

Blocks can also be configured in a 'U' shape as pictured on the right.



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What access is required?

We need access to the back of the toilet block during the show. We generally store cleaning kit, extra toilet paper etc, behind the toilet block, and also require access to check plumbing, the pump and to do changeovers if necessary.



Toilets can be configured in a variety of shapes to suit your site layout or topography.



How are Natural Event's toilets used?

The user does their business as usual and instead of flushing they add 1 cup of sawdust down the hole before exiting. Sawdust is stationed outside the toilet blocks, usually in 1 tonne builder's bags. However the event can decide to construct or provide a decorative unit into which these are placed.

What's special about the design?

Natural Event has spent many years perfecting the design of our toilets. Designed with user-friendliness in mind, their doors feature hooks for bags on the inside, and the outsides are painted with unique artworks to provoke a positive cultural exchange. They can be part of your event décor rather than a row of plastic units behind some fencing.

Are there really no smells?

Yes! If users remember to tip in the sawdust after use. They are well-ventilated to maintain a flow of fresh air (unlike chemical loos which are almost sealed). Their solid-liquid separation system immediately diverts away the urine to a separate chamber for independent treatment. It is the presence of liquids that creates the bad odour of normal 'wet' toilets. The continual addition of sawdust by users provides a bio-filter; a physical barrier that also absorbs smells because it contains carbon (the same element used in cooker filters and trainer insoles to absorb odour).



A happy crapper tweeted his experience at Glastonbury Festival!





What's the door art all about?

The toilet doors offer a highly visible opportunity for artwork or messaging. We have a great collection of beautifully painted doors that have been collected over the years. We also encourage events to commission 'door art' for the event – either pre-event, or to be painted live on-site and attached to the doors upon completion. It's a great way to showcase local artists or to be used as a vehicle to creatively communicate the event's message.



Doors have artwork and also usage messaging. Instructions are also printed on back of doors.



What are the environmental benefits?

Having compost toilets at your event is a very visible way to communicate your commitment to sustainability. The direct and reportable benefits to your event's sustainability credentials include:

- No potable water used for flushing.
- No transport impacts of tanker trucking water for flushing. Drastically reduced transport impacts for sewage (you are not moving water used for flushing).
- No chemicals used no bleaches or formaldehyde.
- Only environmentally sound cleaning products used.
- Final product is life-giving compost.



All about composting

How is our 'waste' treated?

We see the humanure as a resource to be harvested. Deposits made by event attendees into our loos eventually become compost that is nutrient-rich and highly valued in agriculture.

We have an EA approved base composting site where the composting process occurs.

What's 'wrong' with chemicals loos?

The liquid and solid effluent from chemical porta-loos is transported to a sewerage treatment facility for dilution and lengthy purification.

Large quantities often have to be distributed at several sewage treatment facilities to prevent the biocide's deleterious effect on 'good' bacteria that are used to treat the sewage at these facilities.



We have a huge range of door art and in most cases it is random which doors you get! There will always be instructional art on every block. You can create your own door art too.

What happens to the compost?

We distribute the compost to local farmers for use on their land, where it adds nutrients to the soil in the form of nitrogen compounds, helping to boost crop production.

Is the compost produced safe?

Yes. Regular testing by independent verifying bodies has shown absence of salmonella, and that e.coli levels are well below accepted standards. Unlike normal domestic or commercial toilets, compost loos avoid the possibility of undesirable contamination by users (e.g. with industrial waste such as paint) or 'invisible' or illegal commercial dumping into sewers.

Why is composting beneficial?

Compost is sustainably produced (i.e. from limitless supplies), resource efficient (uses very little water, chemicals and fuel), and is a natural alternative to industrially produced chemical fertilisers that requires large amounts of energy and resources to produce and distribute.

In addition, compost releases nutrients slowly, whereas liquid fertilisers can be washed quickly into local waterways, with potentially detrimental long-term effects on flora and fauna, especially if applied before periods of heavy rain or flooding.

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