

of your organisation and finances would be taken in to consideration. However we would advise associations with these types of toilets to include an accessible replacement in their development plans.

Finding funding

- Your first step would be to put your case together, why do you need the toilet? How will it benefit present and future plot-holders and the wider community?



- Talk to other sites or look online for those who have obtained funding, search the Big Lottery website for details of previous grants; Awards for All have given a number of grants for toilets.
- Talk to your local councillor, the council may have grants available and local funding information.
- Plan the projects' timelines, list resources needed and produce a budget.

Resource list

- www.humanurehandbook.com
- www.thunderboxes2go.co.uk
- www.natsol.co.uk
- www.waterlesstoilets.co.uk
- www.eco-toilets.co.uk
- www.composttoilet.co.uk/welcome-to-eco-loos-compost-toilets
- www.rotaloo.co.uk
- www.equalityhumanrights.com/publication/what-equality-law-means-your-association-club-or-society
- www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200135/approved_documents

Become a member of The National Allotment Society

Membership of The National Allotment Society comes with a raft of benefits, from discounts on horticultural products through to initial legal advice and horticultural expertise. To become a member visit www.nsalg.org.uk or call **01536 266576**.

O'Dell House, Hunters Road, Corby, Northamptonshire NN17 5JE
T: 01536 266576 • E: natsoc@nsalg.org.uk • www.nsalg.org.uk



Toilet Options for Allotment Sites



A toilet on your allotment site will enable a wider group of people to take advantage of the benefits of allotment gardening. Here are some funding tips and a look at the various options available.

Emptying your bladder on the compost heap is not an option for many plot-holders and, with more and more families gardening together, a risky option for male gardeners. Popping home to use the facilities is feasible for some but many of us have to travel some distance to our plots. However, over the last few years many associations have successfully raised funds to install toilets on their sites. The options available are:

- Mains flush toilets
- Septic tank flush toilets
- Chemical toilets
- Waterless composting toilets

Mains toilets may be the most expensive option to install as they will require connection to the mains sewers, there will be ongoing costs, charges and possible maintenance issues. In colder areas it may be necessary to drain the system in winter to avoid burst pipes. You can find your water and sewerage provider here www.water.org.uk/consumers/find-your-supplier.

Septic tanks are easy to install and cheaper than a mains toilet. The tank is housed in a concrete chamber with a conventional flush toilet above and you will need access to mains water on site. They must be installed somewhere that is accessible for the vehicles who need to come on-site every now and again to pump out the tank. The frequency will depend on the amount of use the toilet gets.

Septic tanks produce small amounts of liquid effluent, either out of the base of the chamber or via a urine-separating device. This needs treating so that it does not pollute groundwater. Septic tanks and soakaways should not be sited less than 10 metres from any ditch or watercourse and preferably not closer than 15 metres to any dwelling. All new soakaways or improvements to existing soakaways require the prior consent of the Environment Agency.

Chemical toilets can be hired, which will include a servicing fee for disposing of the waste products. They can also be purchased and housed in an adapted hut or even bought ready built in to a converted steel container; however the association will then have the task of disposing of the waste. These toilets require chemicals and special toilet paper.

Waterless composting toilets do not use chemicals or water to take away the waste. There are many different designs on the market and grants are available to assist local societies to install them. There is a list of the various companies that provide compost toilets at the end of this leaflet; they are all very helpful and will provide advice and guidance.

- Bennetts Road Allotment Association received a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery Awards for All fund which has been used to obtain a revolutionary new fully organic waterless toilet for their site. The Kazuba loo, supplied by WaterlessToilets.co.uk, works by harnessing wind and solar power to dehydrate and evaporate waste into a safe, odourless material. Housed in an attractive cabin, the loo is fully accessible for people with reduced mobility and can easily accommodate wheel chair users and parents with small children.
- Runwell Allotments also obtained money from the Big Lottery for a composting toilet. This involved applying for planning permission from their local planning authority, which they did with the support of their Parish Council. With help from a local farmer, willing plot-holders and a local building firm a NatSol composting toilet was installed in 2014.

Waterless, dehydrating and evaporating toilets work by separating liquids and solids; this allows the solid waste to dehydrate and the matter, which is reduced by 90%, break down into pathogen free compost. The liquid either evaporates or is diverted to a soakaway. For some models each time the toilet is used organic cover material must be placed in the bowl to soak up liquids, prevent smells and aid decomposition.

The resulting solid waste is removed from the toilet at regular intervals and left to rot down for a further period. An added bonus is that the resulting fertiliser can be used around flowers, shrubs, fruit bushes and trees. However the compost must not be placed directly onto vegetable patches; it is a very small risk, but there is one type of roundworm egg that can survive outside the human body even after a long compost period.



Cleaning

All toilets need a management regime to keep them clean and ensure the waste is removed at appropriate intervals.

Handwashing

Handwashing facilities must be provided, in a waterless toilet this can be in the form of an anti-bacterial hand-wash. Plot-holders with muddy hands may need to rinse them before using the toilet.

Planning Permission and Building Regulations

You will need planning permission for a mains toilet or septic tank and will need to check with your planning authority about whether planning permission is required for a composting toilet.

...over the last few years many associations have successfully raised funds to install toilets on their sites.

Equality Act 2010

When looking at options for a toilet on your site you will need to take in to account the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. As an association you have a duty to make reasonable adjustments that will enable a disabled person to use your services. This duty is anticipatory, which means that you should not wait until a disabled person becomes a plot-holder to make the adjustment. The sensible option would be to choose a model with disabled access regardless of the present make-up of your plot-holders.

In addition to the model of the toilet you will need to look at the positioning of the toilet on the site and the pathway leading to the cabin.

DIY

It is possible to build a DIY compost loo and there are many older examples around on allotment sites, however many of them have a raised toilet cabin and would need a very lengthy ramp to make them accessible. A physically disabled person using the site could ask the association to make reasonable adjustments to enable them to use the toilet. Although you are not required to do more than it is reasonable for you to do and the size