

Covid 19 and Compost Toilets

We have been asked by a manager of a NatSol Twin Vault Composting Toilet on an allotment site for advice on safety with regard to using the toilet during this epidemic.

Firstly, we must stress that we do not have any specialist knowledge in controlling the spread of viruses, or about the presence of viruses in faeces and their survival time in compost, and can provide only general common sense thoughts as follows: -

- It would be worth fixing a notice to allotment gates, toilet door and any noticeboard encouraging plot holders to reduce their need to use a shared toilet by going to the toilet before they leave home. This will reduce risk for those who do need to use the toilet.
- You should consider having alcohol gel or other hand cleansing options outside the toilet for people to clean their hands before touching door handles or surfaces inside.
- You must have alcohol gel, disinfectant spray or wipes available in the cubicle.
- Cleaners must have good protective equipment (PPE) when cleaning the toilet: - mask, goggles, gloves, and ideally an overall and wellingtons.
- We would suggest that cleaners use a pump-up garden sprayer with water and disinfectant. No harm will come to any of the toilet components by spraying external and internal surfaces.
- We would advise against managing the composting pile during this epidemic.
- If vaults need to be switched that is more problematic, but if you are starting up again after the winter break and if nobody has used the toilet through the winter then there should be no abnormal risks. Under those circumstances it may be worth switching vaults now - before anybody uses the toilet - to avoid the need to switch over during this season. The work should be carried out by one person but when someone else is on site. Observe the social distancing rule of keeping at least 2m apart. Use PPE as above.