NatSol the compost toilet specialists

The use of gel dispensers in NatSol toilet cubicles

We usually supply dispensers for alcohol-based hand-sanitation gels. This is principally because our toilets are most frequently installed in locations without access to mains water and sewage services. Even where water is available there will usually be a risk of freezing in winter.

Hand hygiene is important for reducing the transmission of disease.

In cases where water is available and where users may have dirty hands before going to the toilet we suggest fitting a wash basin outside the cubicle. Fitting basins inside the cubicle will result in the following risks, detrimental effects or additional costs:

1. Two basins, one for each pedestal position, will be necessary under Part M of the building regulations if no gel dispensers are fitted.

2. There will be a risk of flooding of the vaults if a basin becomes blocked or if pipes freeze in winter. This would cause a hazard due to the release of pathogens into the environment. The use of ABHS gels addresses this hazard. ABHS gels remain useable in freezing conditions.

3. Increased cleaning and running costs:

    a. A water supply will be required (or higher water consumption).
    b. Heating the water may be considered necessary.
    c. There will be contaminated water to dispose of, the volume of which is likely to far exceed the volume of urine. A more extensive soakaway will be required.
    d. Cleaning time will rise considerably if basins are fitted.
    e. A hand drying method will be required if hands are washed.

(**NB** The only instance we know where clients have fitted a basin after installing a toilet resulted in a burst pipe during the first winter. The vaults had to be pumped out at a cost of around £150 and the basin was removed.)

There is a large body of evidence demonstrating that the use of alcohol-based antibacterial hand sanitation (ABHS) products containing between 60% and 95% alcohol reduce the risk of infection in a wide variety of settings. The effectiveness of ABHS products against a wide range of disease agents has been consistently shown to be similar to or better than that achieved using soap and water. Recent reviews of the evidence relating to the effectiveness of ABHS products are:

Boyce JM, Pittet D, *Guideline for hand hygiene in health-care settings : Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force*, MMWR 2002;51:16:1-45

Kampf G, Kramer A, *Epidemiologic background of hand hygiene and evaluation of the most important agents for scrubs and rubs*, Clin Microbiol Rev 2004;174:863-93

Sickhert-Bennett EE, Webber DJ, Gergen-Teague MF, Sobsey MB, Samson GP, Rutala W, *Comparative efficacy of hand hygiene agents in the reduction of bacteria and viruses*, Am J Infect Control 2005;33:67-77

Bloomfield SF, Aiello AE, Cookson B, Boyle C, Larson EL, *The effectiveness of hand hygiene procedures in reducing the risks of infections in home and community settings including hand-washing and alcohol-based hand sanitizers*, Am J Infect Control 2007;35:10:S27-S64

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) endorses the use of ABHS products to address the risks associated with a number of activities including the use of public toilets and the changing of nappies. ABHS products are regulated by the FDA as over the counter (OTC) drugs under the regulation:

Topical Antimicrobial Drug Products for OTC Human Use; Tentative Final Monograph (TFM) for Health-Care Antiseptic Drug Products (59 Fed. Reg. 31402, 17 June 1994)

This regulation is designed to ensure that products and the active ingredients used in these products, are safe and effective for human use.

The United States Public Health Service and the FDA also approves the use of ABHS products for food handlers under section 2-310.16 of the Food Code 2009.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Kingdom's National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) / National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA), and the United Kingdom's National Health Service recommend the use of ABHS products to help prevent the spread of hospital acquired infections..

NatSol currently recommends the use of **Gojo Purell.** This product contains 67% alcohol and complies with the appropriate FDA regulation relating to ABHS products.

NB

1. Updated March 2012
2. We can provide electronic copies of the above mentioned review articles and regulations if required.