

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

File No: 98-0151

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: May 16, 2006

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Composting Water Closets

Keywords: Water Closets, Dwelling Units

Building Code Reference(s): 9.31.3.1.(1) ; 9.31.3.2.(2) ; 9.31.4.1.(1) ;
9.31.5.1.(1); 9.31.5.2.(1)&(2) ; 7.1.4.1.(1) ;
3.7.4.1.(2)

Question:

In a dwelling unit with a piped potable water supply, can composting toilets be used to replace conventional water closets?

Interpretation:


No

Sentence 9.31.4.1.(1) lists the required plumbing fixtures (including water closets) in a dwelling unit with a piped water supply.

Every dwelling unit must have a source of potable water supply in accordance with Sentence 9.31.3.1.(1) and where a piped water supply is available, Sentence 9.31.3.2.(2) requires connection to every water closet.

Wastes from every plumbing fixture within a dwelling unit shall be piped in accordance with Sentences 9.31.5.1.(1), 9.31.5.2.(1) and 9.31.5.2.(2). Sanitary drainage systems shall be connected to a public sanitary sewer, a public combined sewer or a private sewage disposal system as indicated by Sentence 7.1.4.1.(1).

It is noted that in buildings other than Part 9 dwelling units, Sentence 3.7.4.1.(2) provides for alternate waste disposal only where the installation of a sanitary drainage system is not possible because of the absence of a potable water supply.



R. J. Light, Committee Chair

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