



Whether a homeowner uses the traditional septic system or the septic system with additional treatment features, they must be educated on the site selection, design, installation, operation, and maintenance in order to protect the household's health and the environment.

### **Alternative Treatments to Conventional Septic Systems**

#### **Composting Toilet- "Clivus Multrum"**

A composting toilet creates a nutrient rich hummus after four or five years of decomposition. Advantages of this system in a household range from the reduction of organic material over time to the fact that no water is used at all. The Clivus is odor free, pathogen free, hygienic, and doesn't create any pollution (Lindstrom, Carl). Also, no leach field is necessary and the toilet lasts as long as the house. The composting system only takes personal excrement and food. Homeowners should have other means of disposing bath and gray water such as in their lawns or gardens.

The cost of composting toilets varies greatly depending on the amount of use, as well as the brand. The BioLet composting toilets range in price from \$800 to \$1600, the less expensive ones being for small family residential use, and the more expensive being able to handle more use (BioLet USA, 2000). The Phoenix brand of composting toilets range in price from about \$3,000 to about \$6,000. The lowest priced ones are for

modifying inadequate or failing systems; or establishing

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