



DATE: October 1, 2021
INTERPRETATION NO.: CI2021-0003
TITLE: Installation of Composting Toilets
RELATED DEPT. & DIVISION: Development Services Department
TOPIC: Plumbing
DECISION MAKER: Beth M. Culver, AIA, CBO, Building Official

SUMMARY: A new composting toilet cannot be installed when a public sewer is available.

CODE SECTIONS: [2012 Uniform Plumbing Code \(UPC\)](#)

- [§303.0](#)
- [§304.0](#)
- [§305.1](#)
 - *Local Amendment* [§305.2.1](#)
- [§405.1](#)
- [§713.1 – 713.7](#)
 - *Local Amendment* [§713.4 Availability](#)


CODE INTERPRETATION:

The UPC sections 303.0, 304.0, 305.1, 305.2.1, and 713.1 through 713.7 require that sewage and human excrement be disposed of through an approved drainage system connected to a public sewer.

Section 305.2.1 requires that the drainage system of every house or building be connected to the public sewer system if any part of the lot or tract is within 100 feet of the public sewer system.

Section 405.1 prohibits toilets that do not have their walls thoroughly washed at each discharge.

If a lot or tract in the City of Austin does not have a public sewer available and has been approved for an On-Site Sewage Disposal Facility (OSSF), the new installation of a composting toilet may be considered for approval by Austin Water.



Beth M. Culver, AIA, CBO, Building Official

This interpretation was previously approved as CI2012-0003 by Leon Barba, Building Official.