

SECTION 8.2

DON'T PANIC FESTIVAL

HUMAN WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Given the scale of the planned festival it is clear that existing toilet provision at the Recreation Ground is insufficient, although it can be used for Festival Staff.

For this reason the decision has been taken to hire in toilet cubicles.

Following research we have decided upon sealed unit chemical toilets rather than large flushing units in trailers.

Whilst this is not our first choice – which would have been compostable loos – it is, in our first year, a necessary compromise. The availability and cost of compostable units in this area made this option untenable, but there are several reasons why using a chemical toilet can be of some benefit to the environment that might not, at first glance, be obvious:

Significant Reduction in Water Usage

Traditional flush toilets are a major source of water consumption. On average, a single flush uses 13 to 26 litres of water. In contrast, chemical toilets require no water for flushing, making them a highly efficient alternative. Concentrated chemical deodorizers play an important role in this as well: by using a small amount of blue chemical deodorizer, we can considerably reduce the water used by flush toilets.

Environmental Impact: Lower Carbon Footprint

The process of treating and delivering water is energy-intensive, contributing to the overall carbon footprint. By reducing the demand for water through the use of chemical toilets, we can significantly lower the associated energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This reduction not only conserves precious water resources but also helps mitigate climate change.

Versatility and Convenience

Chemical toilets are incredibly versatile and can be used in a variety of settings.

Minimal Environmental Contamination

Chemical toilets use specially formulated chemicals to break down waste and control odours. These chemicals are designed to minimize environmental contamination. Properly maintained chemical toilets ensure that waste is contained and treated responsibly, further protecting the environment.

Supporting Water Conservation Efforts

With growing concerns over water scarcity, every effort to conserve water counts. The adoption of chemical toilets supports broader water conservation initiatives by reducing the overall demand for fresh water.

Our festival site doesn't have reliable mains water + foul sewer access, chemical (or vacuum/recirculating) portable loos are usually the lower-impact practical option because they avoid having to truck in lots of clean water, lay temporary pipework, and create large volumes of diluted sewage on a sensitive field, which is what larger more 'comfortable' event loo units require.

We have chosen to use a local and well recommended contractor Robert Beale LTD. This will reduce the carbon footprint to get the units to site. The supplier of the flushing chemical for the units is Roger Paull of Stourton Caundle. He has assured us that the liquid used is fully formaldehyde free.

Beales have a proven track record of responsible waste disposal and work with GENeco.

GENeco's Bristol site is part of the Avonmouth "Bioresources and Renewable Energy Park".

GENeco describes producing biomethane from sewage/organic wastes via anaerobic digestion, which displaces fossil gas.

So our narrative can be:

We are using sealed portable toilets to minimise water use and prevent pollution of the recreation ground. Waste is removed by a licensed contractor and taken to a permitted treatment facility (GENeco Avonmouth) where it can be processed responsibly and contribute to renewable energy generation."

The HSE recognises chemical toilets as acceptable where flushing isn't feasible

HSE guidance (in a construction welfare context, but relevant to temporary sites) notes chemical toilets are acceptable where you cannot provide flushing toilets.

Why chemical loos are the better choice for our festival:

1. Water efficiency: avoids thousands of litres of potable water use.
2. Pollution prevention: sealed containment is safer for soil/hedgerows on a recreation ground.
3. Responsible treatment route: waste goes to a permitted facility (GENeco Avonmouth).
4. Potential energy recovery: GENeco produces biomethane from sewage/organic wastes, helping displace fossil gas.
5. Practical compliance: recognised as acceptable for temporary sites where flush isn't feasible.

These are our absolute musts:

- Formaldehyde-free ("green") toilet fluids only
- No discharge to ground or hedgerows
- One-trip servicing strategy to minimise transport emissions

Why this is environmentally sound

Water use avoided (major benefit)

A standard flush toilet uses ~6 litres per per flush.

At a festival of this size, a temporary flush system could easily require:

25,000–40,000 litres of potable water
additional tankering, pumps, pipes, and treatment

Pollution prevention on sensitive land

Fully sealed containment

No temporary pipework

No discharge to ground, hedges, or drains

This significantly reduces risk to:

soil structure

tree roots and grassland

nearby watercourses

Particularly important on recreation ground / agricultural land.

Responsible treatment with energy recovery

Waste is transported to a GENeco treatment centre (Avonmouth, Bristol):

- a permitted liquid-waste facility
- where sewage-derived waste contributes to anaerobic digestion
- **producing biomethane that displaces fossil gas**

Waste becomes part of the renewable energy system, not landfill.

Transport emissions minimised by design

The largest carbon cost of chemical toilets is vehicle mileage.

Our approach:

sufficient toilet capacity

controlled use

one planned tanker trip

This is best practice and keeps emissions low, noise down, and vehicle movements minimal.

*** This entire policy has been written with an undertaking to source a viable, composting alternative as soon as possible for future events.**