

Frequently Asked Questions

Capacity

How often should the toilet be emptied?

If four people are using the toilet on a daily basis, then a container will last about 3-6 weeks, depending on how much toilet paper is being used. For a normal summerhouse, 2-3 containers will suffice. The *Separett Villa* comes with three containers. Additional containers can be purchased if required.

How is it possible that the container with solids so rarely has to be emptied?

Urine accounts for about 85% of the waste volume and is routed separately away from the toilet. This increases the storage capacity for solids greatly. The container is easily replaceable and if the amount of users increases one only change containers more often. The *Separett Villa* comes with three containers. Additional containers can be purchased if required giving the toilet virtually unlimited capacity.

Odour

Are there unpleasant odours indoors?

No. If the fan runs continuously there will be no unpleasant odours in the room. When installing the toilet, make sure that the venting pipe is properly sealed with silicone. The easily accessible fan filter should be cleaned regularly as well as the insect net at the end of ventilation pipe.

Are there unpleasant odours outdoors?

Because the urine and faeces are not mixed, there is never any latrine-type odour from a Separett toilet. A certain amount of odour may be present outdoors, however, when and shortly after the toilet is used. If the venting can be routed to the back of the house, it is usually suffice to just route it straight through the wall. If the venting pipe must be routed through the gables or to the front of the house, it should be extended upwards or routed through the roof.

Are there unpleasant odours from the leaching bed/soak-away?

No. It does not smell since the urine is let out in the ground and diluted with rain.

Are there unpleasant odours from the *Separett Ejektortank*?

No. The urine odour is drawn into the toilet through the hose and then blown through the toilet ventilation system. By the time it is expelled outdoors, it has been mixed with so much air that the odour is unnoticeable.

Must the urine waste pipe contain a U-bend, water seal?

Usually not. The faint odour that may come from the urine waste hose is drawn out through the venting pipe with the aid of the fan. A water seal is only needed if a strong odour from the greywater system would be noticed outside the house.

Does the spreading of urine cause unpleasant odours?

This depends on the extent to which it is diluted with water. If a *Separett Ejektortank* is used, 1 liter of urine is mixed with 8 liters of water. This may result in a faint odour, but it will soon disappear. You can speed the process by adding more water or spreading the mixture at night or when it rains.

Flies

Are flies a problem with these toilets?

Problems with flies are uncommon with Separett toilets. However, flies may enter the toilet if you leave it for a week or so with the fan switched off and the container with solids still in place. The fan should always be operational. If flies do get in to the toilet, change or empty the container, clean it thoroughly, and use fly spray on the toilet and container several times during the following week to remove any remaining larvae. Never add bark or anything because it can contain larva which can develop problems with flies.

Ventilation

Should the fan operate continually?

Yes. This keeps the housing dry and extends the lifetime of the fan. If the fan has to be switched off, place the lid on the container and remove it. Otherwise, bad odours will spread indoors and flies can easily enter and lay eggs.

Which is the best method for routing the venting pipe, through the roof or straight through the wall?

It is always easier to go straight through the wall. When routing the venting pipe through the roof, the work is more difficult, as is ensuring good seals. Remember not to route the venting pipe to the house entrance or other places where people gather.

How much airflow does the fan create?

There is no simple answer to this question because the airflow is very dependent on the length of the venting pipe and the number of bends it contains.

Is an additional fan needed if you have a shower in the same room?

No! All ventilation from the bathroom shall go through the toilet fan that runs continually.

Does the venting pipe need insulating?

The *Separett Villa* toilet has a condensation collector and does not need to be insulated.

Can the ventilation be run through a chimney stack?

No. We advise against it since moisture from the bathroom can destroy the mortar joints. Also, the plastic ventilation pipe can melt if it is run through the chimney stack.

Urine outlet

Where do I lead the urine?

You have three options for the urine outlet: 1) connect the hose to the greywater system 2) make a simple leaching bed/soakaway or 3) use a tank e.g. the *Separett Ejektortank*. Please ask the Environmental Protection, Public Health or Building departments about the rules applicable to your area.

Can I extend the urine outlet?

Yes. If you need to extend the included 2 meter (6,56 feet) hose; a pipe is preferable. With a hose it is difficult to ensure a drop for the entire length. Indoors, we recommend waste water pipes with a diameter of 32-40 mm (1 ¼" -1 ½") and outdoors pipes with a diameter of 50-75 mm (2" -3").

Does the urine waste freeze in the winter?

Not under normal circumstances. Urine freezes at about -5°C (23°F). Ensure that the urine waste pipe has a drop along its entire length and use at least 50 mm (2") pipe outdoors. It may also be a good idea to insulate the piping sections that run outdoors.

How can I make a simple leaching bed/soak-away?

Fill a ditch measuring about 50x50x50 cm (17"x17"x17"), approximately 0.5 m³ (18 cubic feet) with large stones. Before covering the leaching bed with soil, put a plastic film over the stones to prevent clogging. The urine outlet can be led through or under the plastic film. Please ask the Environmental Protection, Public Health or Building departments about the rules applicable to your area.

Am I allowed to connect the urine waste hose to the greywater system?

The regulations vary within and between cities, states, provinces and countries. Please ask the Environmental Protection, Public Health or Building departments about the rules applicable to your area.

How steep a drop must the urine waste pipe have?

It is important that the urine waste pipe drops along its entire length. A steeper downward drop lessens the risk for deposit build-up of urine salts or ice.

Is it possible to reduce the risk of urine salt deposit build-up in the urine outlet?

Yes. We recommend rinsing the urine basin with a small cup of water after each visit. You can also place the *Separett Bio Drain Cleaner* in the urine basin. This tablet contains enzymes

that prevent urine salt deposits in the urine pipe. However, if you still get blocks in the urine outlet use a liquid drain unblocker.

Are there requirements on water pressure when using the *Separett Ejektortank*?

Yes. You need access to water with a minimum pressure of 2,5 bar (250 kPa). The higher the water pressure, the more elevation differences the *Ejektortank* can handle.

Is it possible to lengthen the hose on the *Separett Ejektortank*?

Yes, the included 10 meter (33-feet) emptying hose can be lengthened up to a maximum of 20 meters (66-feet) and only with a ¾" hose. Do not use a normal garden hose adapter as a connector, as it clamps too tightly around the hose. Before you can lengthen the hose, remove the spray nozzle by heating the hose and the handle with, for example, warm water or a hot air gun. Use a piece of pipe and two clamps to make the joint. As a suggestion cut about 5 cm (2") of the *Ejektortank* nozzle and use it as the pipe for the joint.

Maintenance and care

Do I ever have to add anything?

In the container inside the toilet, the contents should be left to dry and lose volume. Never add bark or anything since it may contain larva which can develop problems with flies. We recommend putting a *Separett Absorb* in the bag inside the container, since it keeps the contents dry and thereby odourless.

Does the toilet function well for women?

Yes. The urine bowl has been tried and tested by both older and younger women to ensure that the urine is separated into the right place. Furthermore an extension for the urine bowl is included in the *Separett Villa*.

Does the toilet function well for small children?

Yes. The urine separating *Child seat* that is included in the *Separett Villa* is also available as an optional extra. The child seat also fits the models *Privy 500* and *Rescue Camping* as well as most separating toilets. Our experience shows that children quickly learn how to sit correctly.

Which type of toilet paper should I use?

You can use normal toilet paper.

Shall I throw toilet paper in the container?

Yes, toilet paper helps keeping the contents of the container dry and divided which facilitates the handling after the storage period.

Does the toilet function in cold rooms?

Yes. Separett toilets are not room temperature dependent, since there is no composting process inside the toilet.

Can I use bags in the container?

Yes. All our toilets are supplied with bags in order to simplify cleaning the container.

Can I use Compostable waste bags?

Yes. We recommend using *Separett Compostable waste bag* since it designed to endure the conditions inside the toilet and during the storage period. It will slowly disintegrate in the ground or in a composter.

How long time does it take until the *Separett Compostable waste bag* disintegrates?

There is no simple answer to this question because the disintegration is depending of the biological activity in the ground or composter and to the exposure of sunlight. Since the bag is designed to endure the conditions inside the container, it will also disintegrate slowly in the ground or in a composter.

Can the toilet tolerate freezing temperatures?

Yes. However, at very low temperatures indoors, you need to be extra careful, as the plastic becomes more brittle.

What do I do when the container is full?

Put the lid over the container, tilt the container towards you and use the sliding surfaces to remove the container from the toilet. Place the container in a suitable location outdoors. A few shovels of soil are added and the lid replaced, but with a slight opening that allows the solids to vent. Leave like this for six months.

What happens with the solids inside the container during the 6 month storage period?

Note, however, that this method does not produce ready-to-use soil. What happens is that the bacteria in the soil "consume" the faecal pathogens, thereby rendering the content harmless. It is then ready to be composted or buried in order to decompose fully. Toilet paper can still be seen after six months, but will rapidly disappear when the content is composted or buried.

How do I compost the solids?

After the 6 months storage period, you can compost the content in a normal composting bin, a garden compost heap, or a pile of leaves. If you use a compost bin made for latrine (waterproof bottom and lid) it is not necessary to store the solids in the container. Instead it can be put straight into the compost bin without being stored in the container first.

If I use the *Separett Ejektortank* in the summer, what should I do in the winter?

Before winter you should empty the *Ejektortank*, since urine freezes at -5°C (23°F) and can cause the container and its pipes to break. If you still use the toilet wintertime one can choose to collect the urine in suitable containers for use in springtime or you can pipe the urine to a leaching bed, soak-away or to the greywater system.

Miscellaneous

Do I need to obtain permission from the authorities before installing the toilet?

The approvals for building, plumbing and composting may vary between cities, provinces, states and countries. Details concerning the need of permissions can be given by you local environment and health office.

Can I install the toilet myself?

Yes. There are not usually any problems for the average DIY-interested person.

Which tools do I need?

The tools you need depend on the installation choices you make for the urine outlet and the ventilation pipe. This is a list of the most probably tools that may come handy:

Screwdriver

Hacksaw – to cut the ventilation pipe

Knife – to cut the urine hose

Holesaws for the urine outlet and the ventilation pipe

Carpenter's level

A drill and tape. In case you have wall or floor tiles.