



Hibernating is over!!!



Winter is always a time of cocooning and retrospection... So that's what we did!  
Of course we didn't just sit down and think, we also kept on working.  
As the days are getting longer, a fresh spring breeze is blowing new energy in  
our heads and hands:  
We are ready to get our hands dirty again!!!

Composting Toilet: Retrospection

If there is one part of natural building that is generally considered as THE symbol of Low Impact Living, it truly is the composting toilet!

At the risk of making some eco-hippies cry and scream "WHYYYYYY, ooh god WHYYYYYY???!!", I have to confess we abandoned the idea of having a composting toilet at Hamadryad!

Unexpected? Yes, as we were almost ready with the construction of our new composting toilet as you can see below....



*Composting toilet at Hamadryad: Almost ready, with vented seating and urine separator*

We even helped some friends out building a double composting toilet...



*Structure of composting toilet at friends place*

Fear not, dear squirrel-hugging friends, we have good reasons to abandon the path of recycled humanure!

Let's take a look at the main advantages of a composting toilet:

1. Doesn't use water
2. Doesn't need sewage system
3. Closes the chain "Food - Humanure - compost - Vegetable garden - Food"

Thinking about these important advantages it struck me that none of these actually apply to the situation at Hamadryad!

1. Water use: A composting toilet where urine is separated from the start needs a tank to store urine. To be able to use it later on as a fertilizer you need to dilute it with 8 volumes of water for 1 volume of urine. This amounts to about 12L water per day per person. Which is still better than the mean 35L water per day you use on a flushing toilet. But what if you decide to purify all your grey and black waste water and you use that water to flush your toilet again?? In that case no water is spoiled!

2. Sewage system: At the forest of Hamadryad there simply is no sewage system and we will purify all our waste water at the spot.

3. The food chain: As Hamadryad will mainly be inhabited by tourist, we will not have a vegetable garden there. Tourists will surely buy their food at the local stores or go out to eat. In other words: there is no food - humanure - compost chain to start with.

There you have it! I simply didn't see any reason to have a composting toilet anymore!

But no worries, we still believe, in many situations, a composting toilet is still the way to go and we will keep on promoting it!!! As a matter affect we will still install an optional composting toilet at Hamadryad, just to show tourists a composting toilet doesn't smell bad and is as hygenic and comfortable as a normal flushing toilet.

For those who wish to build there own composting toilet or just look for information on the subject, you can find an overview on our website: [click here](#)

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## Waste water

It takes a while to get through all the information on waste water management you can find on the net and in books. There are also many theories and practises.

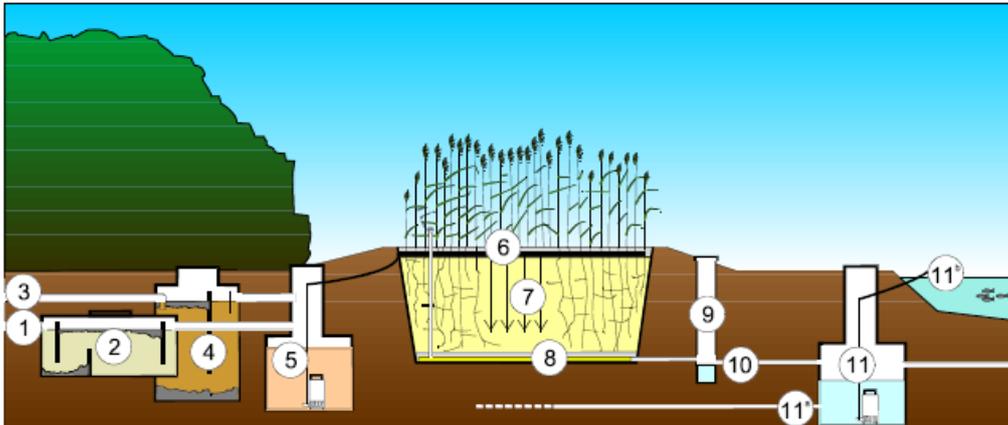
Over the years we have gathered information, both theoretical and practical, on different kind of waste water purification systems and came to the conclusion that although every situation is different, by understanding the way these purification systems work, you can actually easily create your own system that fits your needs.

Take into account that certain communes will only permit systems that are installed by professionals.

As this isn't an obligation in our commune, we decided to design our own system with all our gathered knowledge.

On our website you can find the most importnt information you need to design your own waste water purification system. As we haven't built ours yet, we will gradually at information on the practical side of the installation.

Find all the information you need to start, [here](#).



## What are we doing now?

At the moment we are finishing all the loaming activities on the inside of the house: bathroom, childrens beds, kitchen wall and inside of extension. So if there are people who wish to get some loaming experience, now is the time!!

We are also continuing on the polished plaster of the shower.

And after all this is done we will finish the poured loam floor!

So keep your eyes on your mailbox, because somewhere this summer you are gonna see some serious progress !!!

Also, we wish to announce there will be a couple of weekends we want to invite as many people as possible to the forest to do the outside loam rendering. The goal is to do this in about 4 days, fully finished!

If you want to take this challenge or know someone who wishes to join us, don't hesitate to write us !! We are looking for 10 to 20 people. It will be a great feast for sure!!!

## Website updates

You might have already noticed we changed the looks of our website a bit. Looks aren't everything, right? That's why we also added some new information, video's and pictures on our website.

Some updates you should really check out:

1. [Waste water management](#)
2. [Composting toilets](#)
3. [Update on clay hemp technique](#)
4. [Update on light clay straw technique](#)
5. [We added a Newsletter archive !](#)