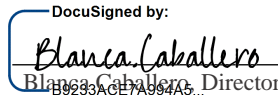




## SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT

### SPS-WW-2023-001

Substantive Policy Statement Title:  Use of Chemical Toilets, Portable Restroom Units, and Portable Waste Holding Tanks	SPS Number: WW-2023-001
	Adoption Date: 08/31/2023
	Revision Date: N/A
Approved By:   Blanca Caballero, Director	9/18/2023  Date

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under section 41-1033, Arizona Revised Statutes, for a review of the statement.

#### **I. Substantive Policy Statement (SPS) Purpose:**

To clarify where chemical toilets, portable restroom units, and/or portable waste holding tanks can be utilized for the collection and storage of human waste before disposal.

#### **II. Statutory Overview:**

Maricopa County Environmental Health Code (MCEHC) Chapter 2, Section 6

#### **III. Definitions:**

1. Chemical toilet: a toilet having a watertight, impervious pail or tank containing a chemical solution placed immediately beneath the seat or urinal and a pipe or conduit connecting the riser with the tank.
2. Portable restroom unit (PRU): a trailer or skid-mounted temporary restroom facility that contains a toilet, urinal, hand washing sink, shower, and/or other sanitary fixture and includes an integral non-hazardous liquid waste holding tank or uses another approved waste storage or disposal method.



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3. Portable waste holding tank (PWHT): a watertight container installed above ground and used to collect non-hazardous liquid waste from temporary facilities, such as office trailers and temporary kitchens.
4. Typical site conditions: sites capable of site development without limiting physical site characteristics that would prevent water or wastewater infrastructure installation.
5. Construction Site: a site where construction activities, such as construction, erection, alteration, repair, or razing projects, take place.
6. Temporary Event Site: a public celebration site, such as a fair, festival, circus, exhibition, carnival, food and/or drink tasting that is temporary in nature, has a specified event duration with an end date, and requires that a temporary event permit is obtained prior to the commencement of the event.
7. Human waste: human fecal and urinary discharges, including any waste containing such material.

#### IV. SPS:

##### A. **What are the primary means for human waste storage and disposal?**

The storage and disposal of human waste in residential and commercial settings shall be accomplished through connection to a municipal/private central sewer system or an onsite wastewater treatment facility (i.e., septic system).

##### B. **Can chemical toilets, PRUs, or PWHTs be used as a primary means for human waste storage and disposal?**

Chemical toilets, portable restroom units, and/or portable waste holding tanks may not be the primary means for human waste disposal and shall not be installed as permanent means for human waste disposal in commercial and residential settings under typical site conditions.

##### C. **In what settings can chemical toilets, PRUs, or PWHTs be used without department approval?**

The use of chemical toilets, portable restroom units, and portable waste holding tanks with current permits from Maricopa County Environmental Services Department (MCESD) is allowed under the following situations and without department approval:

1. At construction sites used by contractors, sub-contractors, and business personnel during development.
2. At construction sites used by business personnel or customers directly impacted or displaced by construction activities whereby primary means of storage and disposal of human waste become temporarily unavailable.
3. At temporary event sites where permanent toilets are unavailable for the public to use during the scheduled event.

##### D. **When can chemical toilets, PRUs, or PWHTs be used after having received department approval?**

In addition to the allowed uses described in 4.C, chemical toilets, portable restroom units, and/or portable waste holding tanks may be allowed by MCESD on a case-by-case basis and for a specified duration of time when one or more of the following conditions have been satisfactorily demonstrated and only after department approval has been obtained:

1. Water under pressure is not available from a municipal/private water utility or through a drilled private well.





2. Connecting to an approved municipal/private central sewer system and installing a septic system is physically impractical or impossible.
3. A severe site or operational constraint prevents connection to an approved municipal/private central sewer system or a septic system. An example would be a failed septic system serving a private residence that requires replacement.

If none of these conditions can be satisfactorily demonstrated, then any restroom installation must consist of a room with a flushing toilet that is connected to either a central sewer system or a septic system.

**V. Contact Us:**

For questions or comments regarding this SPS or to obtain a copy of this document, please contact the Subdivision, Infrastructure, and Planning Program at the phone number and/or email address located in the footer section of the page.

