

CASE STUDY

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Saniflo Provides Compact Plumbing Solution for Tiny Home

Tiny Home builders Johanna Elsner and her husband, Tom, are using macerating toilets to preserve a traditional feel in their non-traditional building projects.

BY TONY BARA

WINSTON-SALEM, NC — There is a growing niche market in the United States for “tiny homes,” or mobile dwelling places that are typically under 400 square feet. “Tiny Homes are just as diverse as any other home,” explains Johanna Elsner, who owns Perch & Nest Company (Winston-Salem, NC) with her husband, Tom. The couple specializes in building luxury, tiny-home recreational vehicles (RVs) that are a grade above standard RVs and other mobile units.



Tiny home builders Johanna Elsner and her husband, Tom stand in front of a tiny home they built.

Crucial to creating that luxurious feel is the inclusion of a traditional toilet, rather than a maintenance-intensive composting unit. With limited space, however, incorporating a bulky water tank is often impractical. As for standard RV toilets? “They don’t aesthetically mesh into the deluxe atmosphere we’re trying to generate,” says Elsner.

Solution

Elsner and her husband were thrilled to discover another option being used by a business partner. Saniflo, which manufactures various pumps and macerators that allow plumbing to be installed virtually anywhere, became the perfect solution for their model tiny home.

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The couple settled on the [Sanicompact](#), a sleek, one-piece macerating toilet that makes installing plumbing a simple task in tight spots. The fact that it flushes and resembles a traditional toilet was also attractive, given the goal of creating a homey feel. Licensed plumber Garrett O’Neal, of O’Neal’s Plumbing, undertook the installation.



Plumbing contractor Garrett O’Neal installs the Sanicompact macerating toilet from Saniflo.

“Not only was this toilet compact enough to fit in the petite, 4-foot by 6-foot bathroom, but the installation was super straightforward, lasting only about one hour,” recalls O’Neal. He ran 1-inch pressure-rated PVC piping beneath the floor for a distance of eight feet to a black water holding tank. “The allowance of the smaller pipe and fewer fittings translated to material cost savings,” says O’Neal.

Result

The model home debuted in April at the 2017 North Carolina Tiny House Festival in Pink Hill, NC., which drew enthusiasts from across the state.

“The macerating toilet was a hot topic for conversation among visitors to our tiny home,” says Elsner. “I described it as an off-grid option with a traditional feel, and the reception was incredible.”

The tiny home and its macerating toilet will continue to intrigue passers-by at similar events in the future.

For more details and features of the Sanicompact macerating toilet, watch this informative video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vjmhc6QpUA>



The Sanicompact macerating toilet from Saniflo maintains a traditional toilet feel in a tiny home, unlike composting or RV toilets.

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SFA SANIFLO U.S.A. — whose parent company originated macerating plumbing technology — offers a complete line of up-flush toilets and gray water pumping systems for residential and commercial applications. Saniflo developed its innovative, “above-floor plumbing” technology more than a half-century ago and has led its commercialization worldwide. Today, the company markets macerating technology through 24 subsidiaries in 50 countries and has sold more than seven million units worldwide since 1958. Saniflo markets through independent sales agents throughout North America, and the product line is currently available at distributor and dealer locations throughout the United States and Canada.

- **For more information**, contact Saniflo at 1-800-571-8191. Or visit the Saniflo website at www.saniflo.com.
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