

DAVE MATT Vans

Van User Manual

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INTRODUCTION

This manual contains operation instructions for all products that could be installed in a Dave & Matt Van. Your specific van may not come equipped with all of the features included in this manual. Optional features are marked with an asterisk (*) in the header. Contact the Dave & Matt Vans Customer Experience Department with any questions about the features included with your van.

The digital version of this manual includes clickable links to sections and section headers are often links to our how-to video database.

This manual covers basic functions and is meant to be used in conjunction with included operating instructions of installed equipment.

RAM VEHICLE USER MANUAL

This manual does not replace the user manual from the vehicle manufacturer. It is important to read your RAM Vehicle Manual to learn details about the proper care and maintenance of your new van. Important information like recommended fuel, break-in-period, and maintenance schedule are all included in this manual. Please read it carefully.

VEHICLE SAFETY

WARNING:

This section is not intended to cover all topics for safe vehicle operation. Please refer to the

RAM Vehicle User Manual for more information.

Always dedicate your full attention while driving the van. Failure to do so can result in injury and death. Remember the following:

- Your van requires wider turns than you might be used to, especially when making right hand turns.
- Increase your following distance to give yourself more time to stop.
- Windy and slippery conditions can cause you to lose control. Reduce your speed in inclement weather.
- Use your rear view camera and side mirrors when backing.
- The RAM Promaster we use for our builds has very good traction for a front wheel drive vehicle but you should always drive according to conditions.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

We install a rechargeable fire extinguisher for your safety in each of our vehicles. This is a Class B & C extinguisher that is designed to put out fires caused by flammable liquids and combustible gas. These fires are capable of spreading extremely fast and can be attributed to gasoline, grease, oil and paints. The extinguisher can also put out electrical fires. Electrical fires are commonly caused by electrical equipment, paneling, wiring and circuit breakers.

WARNING:

Do not check the pressure or test the fire extinguisher by squeezing the lever, even briefly. Once used, it will gradually lose pressure and will not be fully charged for use in an emergency.

WARNING:

When the pointer drops into the red area, the extinguisher may still be pressurized, but must be recharged.

The extinguisher is mounted on the kitchenette for quick access and it should be inspected weekly following the fire extinguisher instructions included with your van.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARM

Your van is equipped with a Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm. A CO Alarm measures the CO levels in the air. It will alarm if CO levels rise quickly, or if CO is consistently present. This Carbon Monoxide Alarm features a permanently installed sensor and an 85 dB alarm horn. It also has a silence feature to temporarily quiet the alarm horn. Please read the full instructions included with your van.

WARNING:

If the alarm sounds please turn off any fuel fired equipment and move to fresh air. If the low battery “chirp” is sounding, please replace with a fresh 9 volt battery. **DO NOT** remove the battery without replacing it immediately.

TIRES

Your van is equipped with all season tires. They must be kept at the proper pressure to operate safely. The front tires should be inflated to **65 psi** and the rear tires should be inflated to **80 psi**. If the yellow tire pressure light activates on the dashboard, find a place to check your tire pressure as soon as possible.

HITCH*

Your van may feature a class 3 hitch receiver. This hitch does not come with wiring for trailer lights or brakes and therefore is **ONLY** for non trailer accessories eg. bike racks.

WARNING:

Using the included hitch to tow trailers that require lights and brakes is against the law. Dave & Matt Vans is not liable for any fines or accidents caused by towing a trailer.

IMPORTANT:

Some Promaster vans come from the factory with included trailering equipment. This equipment comes with trailer plug-ins for lights and brakes. This equipment is visible on the back bumper of the van. If your van has this equipment, you should follow RAM recommendations on towing.

ELECTRIC SYSTEM

Your van is equipped with an integrated electrical system to help you get the most out of your vehicle. This system can be configured from our shop in several different ways.

ABSORBENT GLASS MAT (AGM) BATTERY

Our base builds come with a 200 amp hour AGM battery. It is capable of running all of your van's appliances and lights.

WARNING:

Depleting an AGM battery below 50% causes permanent damage to the battery. All efforts should be made to prevent this, including running the van engine, if required. Monitor the battery capacity using the solar controller, detailed below.

LITHIUM IRON PHOSPHATE (LIFEPO) BATTERY*

Our vans can be upgraded to come with single or double, 170 amp-hour batteries. These LIFEPO batteries come with an integrated Battery Management System that protects the cells against permanent damage. It is important to note that this battery bank will not accept a charge below 32 or above 113 degrees fahrenheit. Using the vehicle climate control or van heater to maintain these temperatures is advised. The batteries will still power your van as long as temperatures are between -4 and 140 degrees fahrenheit.

IMPORTANT:

If your battery is depleted you may have to start the vehicle to "jumpstart" the battery and reactivate it using the van's alternator. You will know that your battery is completely dead if there are no lights on your solar controller or power to any of your appliances. This may not be possible if your BMS is preventing your battery from accepting a charge due to cold weather. Heat the battery up first if you are having this issue.

SOLAR

The solar panels charge your house battery any time they are exposed to sunlight without obstacles or debris on the face of the panels. The solar system is self regulating and will adjust the power depending on the needs of the battery.

Our base build comes with one 160 watt photovoltaic (PV) panel but may be equipped with up to 3 depending on your wheelbase and configuration from our shop.

ALTERNATOR CHARGING SYSTEM

Your van is equipped with an alternator charging system that will charge the house battery any time the engine of your van is running. The system is designed to isolate the vehicle starting battery when the engine is off to prevent the draining of the starter battery. You will see a green light on your electric panel when the alternator is properly charging your house battery.

BLUETOOTH MONITORING SYSTEM

By downloading the "Renogy DC Home" app from your preferred app store, you will be able to wirelessly monitor your battery and solar status.

1. Open the app on your smartphone.
2. Follow instructions to register and add your device.

IMPORTANT:

When monitoring your battery capacity, remember that any load going in or out of your battery will skew the readings. The best way to know how much voltage your batteries have is to turn off all appliances and make sure the van is not running. You will also get a more accurate reading if your solar panels are not in direct sunlight.

FUSES

Your van is equipped with a fuse panel located near your house battery to protect the vehicle from fire and overloading sensitive appliances. In the unlikely event that a fuse blows, you can replace the damaged fuse. You can find replacement ATC fuses from any standard auto parts store.

- A fuse might be blown if a certain circuit is not operating properly, for example the lights or fan do not turn on. You can verify this by looking for a red light next to the fuse in the box. You can also manually inspect the fuse. Often there is a burn mark or the connection in the fuse is visibly broken.
- To replace the fuse, remove the clear plastic cover by squeezing the sides near the top of the cover. Then, firmly grasp the suspect fuse and pull straight out.

WARNING:

Failure to replace the bad fuse with a new one of the proper amperage could damage the connected appliance or cause a fire. ALWAYS use the same amperage replacement of the bad fuse.

BREAKERS

Your van has circuit breakers and fuses that help protect the vehicle from fire and damage in the event of a short circuit. These breakers can also be tripped by overloading the system. If a breaker trips you can reset it by pushing back the small arm that popped out from its place. If

the breakers continue to trip, there is likely a short circuit and you should not attempt to keep resetting the breaker. In this event, please reach out to the Customer Experience Team at Dave & Matt Vans.

IMPORTANT:

A breaker under the driver's seat can be inadvertently tripped if items are stored or pushed under the seat. This will prevent the house battery from charging while the engine is running. Make sure to check that breaker if you notice the green light on your electric panel is not on while running your engine.

INVERTER*

Your van may be equipped with a 2000w pure sine wave inverter made to convert your battery's DC power to household AC power.

WARNING:

Always check the power requirements on your appliances you use with the inverter. Overloading the system will trip internal circuit breakers and continual abuse can harm the internal circuitry. If the inverter is overloaded or becomes too hot, you will hear an alarm and the inverter will shut off. To reset the inverter, disconnect the appliances, switch the inverter off, wait 5 seconds and turn back on.

IMPORTANT:

Avoid switching on the inverter with the load (electronic devices) already switched on. This may trigger an overload since some electronic devices have an initial high power surge to start.

1. Connect powered down electronic devices to the electrical socket(s) on the inverter. Flip inverter power to ON Position then turn on devices.
2. When finished, switch electronic devices off first, then turn off the inverter switch.

EXTERNAL A/C OUTLET*

Your van may feature an A/C passthrough port. With this, you can plug your van into an external 110 volt outlet using an extension cord (not included) and use the outlet in your van for plugging in household appliances.

VENTILATION

Maintaining proper ventilation in your van is important and can help prevent mold and undesired smells from accumulating.

WINDOWS

Your van features side windows with sliding glass panes and integrated screens.

1. To open the window, flip down the lock that is positioned at the bottom-center of the window.
2. Slide the glass forward using the vertical edge in the center of the window.
3. Slide the screen forward using a similar vertical edge.
4. To lock, reverse these instructions.

Your window should always be closed and locked before driving your van.

FANS

Our base build comes with one MAXXFAN Deluxe ventilation fan in the rear over the bed. An additional fan can be added to the front of the van. These fans are remote controlled with an integrated thermostat and incorporate a vent, fan, and rain shield in one package.

The remote is located on the wall near the light switch and takes AAA batteries (included). The integrated thermostat is able to automatically open the vent and turn on the fan while adjusting fan speed to keep the van at your desired temperature. The fan can be reversed to push air out as well as pull air in.

For a full list of features and operating instructions see the full set of instructions included with your van.

SWIVEL SEATS

Our heavy duty steel swivel adapters allow you to turn the driver and passenger seats around, opening up your living space.

To swivel the seat pull up on the handle between the front seats and turn the seat. You may have to move the driver seat forward or back to continue the rotation. The swivels will only lock in the forward position.

WARNING:

When returning the seat to the forward position, be sure to reverse the movement, not continue around. If the seat makes continuous 360 degree revolutions, it will eventually bind the wiring under the seat and could cause costly damages.

KITCHENETTE

All of our vans feature a custom built, computer cut, kitchenette. This unit is designed to stand up to the abuse of full time living and bumpy roads.

DRAWERS & DOORS

The kitchenette features 5 drawers to maximize storage. They have push-to-release latches to ensure they stay closed. Drawers can be removed by manipulating the levers on the drawer slides.

From time to time you might need to adjust the cabinet fronts. This can be done by loosening the two phillips head screws inside the drawer, repositioning the face to the proper location, and tightening the screws to secure the drawer face in place.

You can also adjust the cabinet door by turning the adjustment screws on the hinge assembly.

REFRIGERATOR

Your van is equipped with a 12v DC refrigerator. A small ice box gives you limited freezing capacity. The thermostat is located in the top right corner of the fridge and has 7 temp settings with 7 being the coldest and 0 being OFF.

WATER SYSTEM

Your van has 7 gallons of fresh water under your sink. There's also a 7 gallon grey-water jug under the sink that will need to be emptied regularly. You can fill your fresh water jug by detaching the quick-connect from your fresh water jug. To empty your grey water, unscrew the white top and dump down a toilet or other approved dump station.

The sink operates on an electric pump. The switch for the pump is located on the side of the cabinet to your right when standing at the sink. The pump only runs when the faucet is on. We recommend turning the pump switch off when not using the sink to prevent the possibility of leaks.

WARNING:

If the weather is expected to drop below freezing, you should drain the water system (winterize) or keep the van warm by running the heater (detailed below). To drain the system, start by disconnecting the hose from the fresh water tank by pulling up on the quick-connect. Next, turn on your water pump and faucet to run the remainder of the water supply through the pump. Once the pump pulls all of your clean water out, turn off the water pump and use a hand towel or paper towel to wipe off any extra water that you may find on the quick-connect and base of the water pump. Store the van with the pump OFF and the faucet OPEN to allow for freezing expansion.

Any water left in the tanks may freeze. Ice in the containers melts very slowly and is difficult

to remove. Ice in the containers will limit your ability to use the system when temps warm up.

Please understand that if this system freezes it could damage the pump, faucet and other fittings, causing costly repairs.

LAGUN TABLE*

Your van may be equipped with one or more Lagun Table System mounts and arms. This allows for a stable and adjustable, work area that is removable if you need more space. Combined with our swivel seats and/or storage benches* you can utilize the Lagun to create a small dinette area.

These systems consist of a permanent bracket and an arm assembly attached to a table top. The arm assembly has 3 adjustment points that you can manipulate by loosening the applicable handle.

WARNING:

Ensure the table is secure before moving the van. An unsecured table could swing unexpectedly and cause damage to your van or injury to its occupants.

COLLAPSABLE RINSE STATION*

Your van may be equipped with a collapsable rinse station, including a portable immersion heater, shower curtain, and collapsible basin. Follow the instructions below to set up your rinse station.

WARNING:

Failure to collect your grey water and dispose of it properly is illegal in most municipalities. You are responsible for knowing the local laws and regulations before using this rinse station. At Dave & Matt Vans we always recommend the use of biodegradable soaps and Leave No Trace ethics.

1. If you want heated water, turn on your inverter, plug in your immersion heater, and insert it into your fresh water tank. Monitor the temperature carefully using the included thermometer or your finger. Swish the water back and forth to encourage mixing and to disperse hot spots.
2. Using the palm of your hand, unscrew the floor drain plug by pushing down and twisting counter clockwise using the friction of your palm. If the flooring spins in place you can use a phillips screwdriver to tighten the screw in the center.
3. Unfold and position the collapsible basin so the drain of the basin is positioned over the drain in the floor. The end with the drain should be positioned towards the front of the van.
4. If desired, hang the shower curtain using the hooks in the ceiling. Position the curtain so that one of the two openings between the two curtains is positioned in front of the faucet.
5. Remove the immersible heater from the fresh water tank (if applicable) and connect to your water system. Beware, the heater and water may be hot enough to cause injury. Use the sink faucet as a hand sprayer.
6. After use, make sure the basin is completely drained. Allow the basin and the shower curtain to dry completely before putting away to prevent mold.

TOILETS*

CASSETTE TOILET*

Your van may feature a 5.3 gallon, portable cassette toilet. The holding tank is detachable and includes a sealing slide valve to lock in odors and protect against leakage. It includes two side latches to secure the tank to the toilet and a carrying handle for easy transport. The

toilet employs an easy-to-use bellow-type flush and pull slide valve for easy flushing.

SETUP

1. Fill the upper “flush” tank with fresh water.
2. Using an appropriate holding tank chemical, follow the instructions for treating the holding tank of your toilet.

USE

1. Make sure the slide valve is fully closed and holding tanks caps are on tight
2. Pump the bellow-type flush 5 to 10 times to fill the bowl with water.
3. After using the toilet, open the slide valve to allow the waste to drain into the holding tank.
4. Close the slide valve securely.

DISPOSAL

1. Ensure the sliding valve is closed securely and holding tank caps are on tight.
2. Separate the top of the toilet from the bottom using the clasps on the side.
3. Bring the bottom waste holding tank to the dumping area.
4. Remove the cap of the waste holding tank.
5. Empty the contents into an approved dumping site (see below) and replace the cap.
6. Wipe the toilet down with an antibacterial cleaner and wash your hands.

IMPORTANT:

If a local septic tank outdoor access port is available, open the septic tank pump-out port at the top of the septic tank cleaning riser pipe. Pour the toilet waste reservoir contents into that opening and replace the cap on the pumping port immediately.

If the septic tank pump-out port has become buried by deep snow, or if no septic tank

outdoor port nor RV dumping station is available, the portable toilet can be emptied into an indoor toilet - pour carefully so as not to splash.

COMPOSTING TOILET*

Your van may be equipped with a Nature's Head Composting Toilet. The composting section holds approximately 60 to 80 uses.

The time frame to empty the solids bin varies with the number of people and the time period. The toilet is designed for 1 to 4 people full-time. Generally, two people's full-time usage will require emptying approximately every 3 weeks; additional people will shorten the time. If using just on weekends with 2 people, that can extend time to 2 months or more. Just a couple of days of non-use extends the period of time. Usually, the level of the compost will not increase; if it does it will be minimal.

The urine bottle holds 2.2 gallons and will require more frequent emptying; two people might need to empty after 3-4 days.

SETUP AND USE

Before use, it is necessary to add compost material to the base of the unit. Gallon size "ZIPLOC" type bags are an inexpensive manner for storing the medium. To fill your toilet or refill it after emptying, pour two one-gallon bags of pre-moistened sphagnum peat moss or coconut fiber into the base of the toilet. The compost material should rise to the level of, or cover, the agitator bar in a horizontal position.

The compost material should be damp and crumbly, never wet or soupy. If your sphagnum peat moss or coconut fiber is dry, add a small amount of water. When not in use, the lid of the toilet should be in the closed position, preventing the entry of insects and allowing proper ventilation. The peat moss must be regular/organic sphagnum peat moss, no additives. DO NOT use MIRACLE-GRO peat moss.

IMPORTANT:

Do not add additional medium after solids usage. Doing this will result in too much sphagnum peat moss or coconut fiber in the unit and will limit your time of usage before emptying.

The primary concept of our composting toilet is the separation of liquids and solid wastes! Be sure to inform your guests as to the proper use of your head. This will allow proper composting action and assist your guests in feeling comfortable with a new piece of equipment.

WARNING:

Allowing the overflow of urine into the composting chamber will cause unpleasant odor and prevent proper compost action.

Seated usage is recommended. While seated, the unit may be used with the trap door in the open or closed position. Whether male or female, the user's liquids and solids will be directed to the correct locations from this position. With any bowel movement, the trap door must be open. Male stand-up usage is less acceptable as splatter may result. In the event that the unit is used in a standing position, the trapdoor must remain closed in order to prevent mingling of liquid and solid wastes.

Toilet paper is typically placed in the toilet. Since paper products do not decompose as quickly as solid wastes, they will be visible long after the solid matter has broken down. Any type of toilet paper is acceptable; less substantial brands (such as marine or RV paper) will compost the quickest.

WARNING:

Diapers, wipes and tampons should not be placed in the solids bin. Many brands of these items are made from a mix of rayon and

non-organic cotton, and are commonly chlorine-bleached. These will not decompose.

Most users keep a small spray bottle filled with a mixture of water and 2 oz of white vinegar nearby to spray off the bowl in the event that some solid waste adheres to the bowl. Spritzing of the bowl also assists in cleansing the urine passages.

All urine has an odor. It will not be noticed with normal use. It will be present when the storage container is open to the air for emptying. For persistent urine odors in the container, add a few ounces of white vinegar, and/or a few drops of Dawn dishwashing soap to reduce this odor.

IMPORTANT:

After solid waste addition, the sphagnum peat moss or coconut fiber must be agitated 2-3 revolutions slowly in order to mix the waste into the compost and promote the composting process. Contents of the solid waste container must be kept moist, not wet, and remain separated from the liquid waste.

When the toilet is functioning correctly, the composted matter will have a musty or soil-like odor and the visual appearance will be very similar to that of the original sphagnum peat moss. It is not normal for the compost to be wet or for there to be odor problems

If the compost is staying wet and you have odor problems, it is likely the solids tank is becoming contaminated with urine and steps must be taken to prevent this. If this persists, and you are unable to determine how it is becoming contaminated, please contact us for help.

Vomiting and diarrhea, if not persistent, are unlikely to affect the head function. If increased wetness of the compost results, the situation may be corrected with the addition of a small amount of dry compost medium.

EMPTYING

The liquid waste vessel will contain approximately 2.2 gallons of urine. The translucent material of the container allows easy visualization of the liquid level.

To empty the liquid waste container:

1. Release the latches located at both front sides of the unit which secure the bowl to the base.
2. Raise the bowl to an angle of approximately 45 degrees, install the cap, and remove the bottle.
3. Dispose of the contents in an appropriate manner. The urine bottle may be emptied into a conventional toilet or other appropriate facility.

IMPORTANT

Should overflow of the liquid waste container occur, the liquid will remain confined to the container base so long as the overflow is not excessive. The liquid tank should be emptied frequently and rinsed with water with detergent or vinegar added. Do not allow urine to remain in the container base.

To empty the solids bin:

1. Remove the urine bottle.
2. Unscrew the knobs on each side of the toilet securing the unit to the brackets.
3. Lift the toilet out of the box, being careful not to yank the exhaust hose or fan power wire.
4. Set the toilet down and unplug the exhaust hose and power wire.
5. Lift the seat unit several inches and slide it to the left to disengage the slip hinge.

One of the simplest methods to empty is to place a 13 gallon kitchen bag over the opening of the base (NOTE: the bag does NOT go in the base.) The bag should fit tightly over the rim

and allow you to invert the base and empty the contents into the bag without spillage.

IMPORTANT:

It is unnecessary to clean the interior of the solid waste container as composting will continue from the residual matter clinging to the sides.

WARNING:

Cleaning the base unit, especially with any chemicals, may inhibit its ability to generate the good bacteria that is breaking down the solid wastes. Simply empty, put in more composting material, and re-assemble your toilet.

It is best you do not leave the liquid wastes in the tank for extended periods. While everyone is different, some urine will smell bad if allowed to sit for extended periods.

DISPOSAL

The recommended procedure for disposing of the contents of the solid waste tank is placing it in a proper composting bin to allow it to fully decompose. When traveling, this may not be practical. The contents of the solid waste tank may be safely placed into a conventional dumpster if it has been allowed to compost fully. When fully composted, the solid wastes may be used to fertilize non-ingestible plantings. Placing human waste compost on edible plants or vegetables is not recommended.

Full-time users have some special circumstances to deal with. Full-time use does not allow enough time for the solid wastes to compost. The most recent waste, although mixed with the already composted material, will not be decomposed. This also means that the fecal bacteria (present in fresh human wastes) may still be present. We recommend taking precautions such as the use of gloves if you

may come into contact with waste material. It is advisable that you delay emptying the solid waste for 6-8 hours after the last use.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

A quick spray of water and white vinegar or a natural cleaner from a squirt bottle is all that is needed to keep your toilet fresh between uses. If necessary, a moistened paper towel (no synthetics) is excellent for cleansing the interior (as well as the exterior) of the head.

For more intensive cleansing or dried-on matter, a paper towel moistened with a 1:1 solution of vinegar and water may be used, and disposed of, in the same manner, after cleaning. Bleach, ammonia, and other commercial cleaning compounds should never be added to your composting head as they will interfere with the composting process and may lead to unpleasant odors. These cleaners may be used to clean the exterior surfaces.

The full-size molded-in seat of the head is designed for safety and comfort and requires no special care.

HEATER*

Your van may feature a Webasto Airtop 40 gasoline heater.

WARNING:

The gas heater is located under the passenger seat. The air that comes out is hot enough to melt plastic or cause injury. Keep the vent clear.

WARNING:

The heater uses fuel directly from the vehicle's fuel tank. If the fuel level is below ¼ tank, the heater will not be able to run.

OPERATION

Press the **Webasto** button to turn the heater on.

Using the **rotary dial** and the **selection button**, follow these steps to set your cab temperature to your desired temperature and runtime.

1. Press the **Selection button**. Using the **rotary dial**, select: Options > Duration > Timed > Adjust runtime to how long you want the heater to run in hours. Confirm the adjustment by pushing the **selection button**.
2. From the main screen use the **rotary dial** to adjust the set temperature to your desired temperature; confirm the adjustment by pushing the **selection button**.

The set temperature can be adjusted quickly even when the heater is running using the same method as above.

WARNING:

In snowy and icy conditions check that the heater exhaust pipe and intake tube are not blocked with ice before starting. These are located directly below the heating unit under the van.

FAILURE TO START

In the event that the heater does not start, the system can be reset.

1. Turn on the heater by pressing the **Webasto button**.
2. Within the next 10 seconds, pull the 20 amp fuse for the heater (the 1 amp fuse is for the controller and it should remain in place).
3. Wait at least 60 seconds before reinserting the fuse back into place.

This process should reset the heater. If you continue to have trouble, contact the team at **Dave & Matt Vans** .

IMPORTANT:

In order to prevent carbon build up, the heater needs to run its preventative maintenance cycle

every 30 days. The thermostat will flash red LEDs and prompt you to run the cycle if the setting is enabled (it is enabled by default).

During longer periods of time when you are not using your van, we recommend checking the thermostat monthly to perform the required maintenance.

REAR SEAT*

Your van may be equipped with a single or double rear seat for safely transporting passengers. This seat is easy to remove when not in use. To remove:

1. Pull up on the rear latches.
2. Rock the seat forward.
3. Slide the front hooks back to disengage the seat from the rails.

WARNING:

The seats (especially the double) are heavy. Two people are recommended for installing and removing the seats.

APPENDIX
MANUFACTURER USER MANUALS

[2021 RAM Promaster
User Manual](#)



[LIFEPO Battery User
Manual](#)



[Fire Extinguisher User
Manual](#)



[Wanderer Solar
Controller User
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[Natures Head Composting Toilet User Manual](#)

