

Best Management Practices

From receiving materials to selling the finished product, employing best management practices can help eliminate problems before they start and increase the quality of the final product.

- To help reduce odors and vectors, manage food waste immediately upon arrival by mixing with carbon-rich and absorbent material such as wood chips or mulch.
- To help inhibit vectors, consider prohibiting dairy and meat products. If accepted, incorporate deep into the center of the compost piles.
- To help control litter, enhance product quality and reduce residual wastes, prohibit plastics (including bags) and carefully screen feedstocks to ensure acceptability.
- Mix inherently wet materials with coarse, dry, bulking materials.
- Ensure the right carbon to nitrogen ratio (aim for approximately 30:1) to expedite the composting process and to help reduce odors.
- Aeration is important to prevent anaerobic, odor causing conditions; turn/agitate the pile as needed.
- To help control dust, have an on-site water supply available for dust suppression activity.
- Maintain adequate drainage to eliminate standing water. Concurrently, ensure appropriate storm water management practices are in place and treat contact water as necessary to prevent impact on the surrounding environment.
- Implement processes to further reduce pathogens using an appropriate method. (Detailed in Appendix B of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 503.)
- Understand potential markets for compost to ensure demand will meet your supply of finished product. Only accept a quantity of raw material you know can be successfully marketed at the end of the production process as finished product.



This brochure is intended to provide general information for development of composting operations within Frederick County.

Composting operations are regulated by the Frederick County Code as well as the Maryland Department of the Environment.



Frederick County Government

Division of Planning & Permitting

30 North Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-1138

Division of Solid Waste and Recycling

9031 Reichs Ford Road
Frederick, MD 21704
301-600-1848

Non-Residential Composting



Zoning Requirements

and

Best Management Practices



Zoning

The County Zoning Ordinance currently provides for specific types of Solid Waste Composting operations or facilities in Frederick County in the Use Table section 1-19-5.310 of the Zoning Ordinance and requires a Solid Waste Floating Zone Amendment in the Ag, LI and GI zoning districts. However, the following provisions may allow for exemptions:

Exemptions:

Section 1-19-5.300(E)(1)(a) of the Zoning Ordinance states that 'A use not specifically listed in section 1-19-5.310 Use Table is presumed to be prohibited, except when: (a) permitted in any zoning district by state statute'.

Therefore, those activities not required to obtain a permit from MDE may be exempt from specific zoning review and approval regulations. The Environment Article, §9-1725, Annotated Code of Maryland, and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.04.11.11 provide direction and definitions for these types of composting activities. Exemptions for these types of composting activities include:

On-Farm Composting Facility Exemptions

Where the Farm meets the definition in COMAR 26.04.11.02, meets the provisions of COMAR 26.04.11.04(B), and meets the provisions in 26.04.11.06 (C)-(G)

- **Regardless of size if:**

- ⇒ The facility composts only organic materials generated on-site or at another farm controlled by the same operator; and
- ⇒ The compost is used for personal, household, family, or agricultural purposes at the farm where the composting facility is located or at a farm controlled by the same operator.

- Where an on-farm composting facility that uses no more than 40,000 square feet of area in support of composting operations if:
 - ⇒ The facility composts only one or more of the following:
 - Material generated on-site or at another farm controlled by the same operator
 - Animal manure and bedding, regardless of the place of generation; and
 - Type I feedstocks*, regardless of the place of generation.
- Where an on-farm composting facility uses no more than 5,000 square feet in support of composting operations if:
 - ⇒ The facility is a Tier 1 or Tier 2 facility*
 - ⇒ Maintains any raw feedstock storage piles at a height of 9 feet or less; and
 - ⇒ Maintains any active composting pile, curing or finished compost piles at a height of 12 feet or less.

Any application for land use approval that meets the definition of Solid Waste Composting (based on the above definitions from the Zoning Ordinance) would be required to obtain a Solid Waste Floating Zone Amendment.

Non-Farm Composting Facility Exemptions

A composting facility permit is not required by MDE for a composting facility where the facility meets the provisions of COMAR 26.04.11.05(C), meets the provisions in 26.04.11.04(B) including the following:

- Where the facility is located on a residential property and composts organic materials generated on the residential site, if the resulting compost is used on the residential site for personal, household, or family purposes.

- Is a Tier 1 or Tier 2 facility:
 - ⇒ At all times uses no more than 5,000 square feet of area in support of composting operations; and
 - ⇒ Maintains any raw feedstock storage pile at a height of 9 feet or less; and
 - ⇒ Maintains any active composting pile, curing, or finished compost piles at a height of 12 feet or less.

Any use dealing with solid waste which requires a permit from MDE and is not specifically provided for in the Use Table would also require a Solid Waste Floating Zone Amendment.

For specific information regarding wood waste recycling, sludge amended yard waste, or sludge pit activities in Frederick County please contact the Frederick County Department of Development Review at 301-600-1138.

* For Definitions of 'Tier 1, 2 and 3 Facility' and 'Type I, II, and III feedstock' see COMAR 26.04.11.02

