

## Best Management Practices

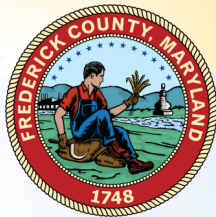
*From receiving materials to selling the finished product, employing best management practices can help eliminate problems before they start and increase the quality of the final product.*

- 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 that:
  - ⇒ 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*

