



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

County Executive Office

1195 Third St.
Suite 310
Napa, CA 94559
www.co.napa.ca.us

Main: (707) 253-4421
Fax: (707) 253-4176

Nancy Watt
County Executive Officer

Reference Guide for Composting

Napa County Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)

The following is a brief overview of the basic "tiers" for on-site composting with regard to current regulations. Major factors to consider are: total material volumes on site; whether the compostable materials are generated on site or imported from outside sources; operational/site specific considerations.

Excluded Activities (not regulated):

- **Agricultural Material Composting:** Compostable materials are derived and then returned to same site or site owned/leased by owner, parent, or subsidiary. Less than 1,000 cubic yards (cu yd) is sold or given away annually. Agricultural material defined next page.
- **Green Material Composting:** The green material is generated from on site source. Less than 500 total cu yd of material onsite at any one time. May contain up to 10% compostable food material. Green material defined next page.
- Materials are handled to preclude the materials from reaching temperatures of 122 degrees F. or above (*May be regulated as a Chipping and Grinding Operation*).
- Vermicomposting and Mushroom Farming are excluded, but the compostable materials used as growth medium are not.
- **Important for Exclusion:** All materials are generated on site (not imported) or site owned/leased by owner, parent, or subsidiary.
- **There are other exclusions not included here.** The exclusions can be site specific and dependant on a number of factors. Please contact the Napa County LEA to discuss your operation for clarification or further explanation (*See the end of guide*).

Enforcement Agency (EA) Notification Tier:

Complete and submit a short EA Notification form to the Napa LEA before operating. The notification would be filed in accordance with the California Code of Regulations- Title 14, Section 18103.

- **Agricultural Material Composting Operation:** Does not meet the Agricultural Material Exclusion above. Agricultural material defined next page.
- **Green Material Composting Operation:** Between 500 and 12,500 cubic yards (cu yd) of green material on site. Green material defined next page.
- **Research Composting Operation:** Less than 5,000 cu yd of materials on site (Greater than 5,000 cu yd allowed for "In Vessel" composting). "Research Composting Operation" means a composting operation, which is operated for the purpose of gathering research information on composting.

Full Permit Tier:

Complete the permit application and supporting documentation for LEA review and approval before operating, as indicated by the California Code of Regulations Title 27, Section 21570.

- **Green Material Composting Facility** – Greater than 12,500 cu yd of material on site.
- **All** Composting Operations/Facilities that do not meet the “Excluded” or “EA Notification Tier” and/or use any material feedstock other than green material.

Material definitions:

“Agricultural Material” means material of plant or animal origin, which result from the production and processing of farm, ranch, agricultural, horticultural, aquacultural, silvicultural, floricultural, vermicultural, or viticultural products, including manures, orchard and vineyard prunings, and crop residues.

“Green Material” means any plant material that is separated at the point of generation that contains no greater than 1.0 percent of physical contaminants by weight. Green material includes, but is not limited to, yard trimmings, untreated wood wastes, natural fiber products, and construction and demolition wood waste. Green material does not include food material, biosolids, mixed solid waste, material processed from commingled collection, wood containing lead-based paint or wood preservative, mixed construction or mixed demolition debris.

“Food Material” means any material that was acquired for animal or human consumption, is separated from the municipal solid waste stream, and that does not meet the definition of “Agricultural Material”. Food material may include material from food facilities as defined in the Health and Safety Code section 113785, grocery stores, institutional cafeterias (such as prisons, schools, and hospitals) or residential food scrap collection.

Please Note

This guide is for reference. It is not inclusive of all regulated activities. Site specific conditions may/may not affect which “Permit Tier” an operation could be subject to. The Napa County Local Enforcement Agency is available as a resource for compostable materials handling activities. Please contact the agency as needed for reference, clarification, or general questions.

Napa County Local Enforcement Agency:

Program Manager: Greg Pirie, REHS
(707) 253-4144
Greg.Pirie@CountyofNapa.org

Program Assistant: Mark Graham, REHS
(707) 299-1780
Mark.Graham@CountyofNapa.org