



Florida Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation Handbook: Composting¹

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How Is the Use of Compost Regulated?

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has established detailed regulations for the production and use of compost created from waste. These regulations exclude compost obtained from backyard composting and normal farming operations. Compost from these activities is exempt from regulation only if it is used on the property where it was composted, as part of the farming operation. Any compost that is sold must meet the requirements of the regulations.

Any facilities that produce compost commercially must obtain permits from the DEP and comply with detailed DEP regulations. You should contact DEP for more information on these regulations if you intend to commercially market compost generated from your agricultural operations, as they are quite complex.

What Wastes May Be Composted?

Wastes produced in "normal farming operations" (e.g., activities used in the production of poultry, livestock or agricultural crops) may be composted. Normal waste from these operations includes organic waste, manure and wastes derived solely from agricultural crops and normal household food wastes.

What Wastes May Not Be Composted?

Any biohazardous waste, used oil, or hazardous or asbestos-containing waste, except in the small quantities normally found in household waste, may not be composted.

What Uses of Compost Are Prohibited?

Compost from solid waste may never be used as fill material in any body of surface water. Also, DEP regulations prohibit any application of compost that would endanger public health or the environment.

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This handbook is designed to provide an accurate, current, and authoritative summary of the principal Florida laws that directly or indirectly relate to agriculture. It should provide a basic overview of the many rights and responsibilities farmers and farmland owners have under Florida laws. The reader is provided information about these rights and responsibilities and the appropriate contacts for more detailed information. However, the reader should be aware that because the laws, administrative rulings, and court decisions on which this publication is based are subject to constant revision, portions of this publication could become outdated at any time. Many details of cited laws are also left out due to space limitations.

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