

Do you need a Solid Waste Permit?

If you want to manage organic materials, you may need a solid waste handling permit, or you may be exempt from this permit. Your local Jurisdictional Health Department (JHD) can help determine if you will need one or not. They provide technical assistance, review proposals, provide solid waste permit application forms, and issue these permits.

Compost and other organics management facilities are regulated under [Chapter 173-350 WAC, Solid Waste Handling Standards](#). Some composting and other organics management operations do not need a solid waste permit if they meet certain conditions. Although they are conditionally exempt from the permitting process, they must still follow certain requirements. For example, exempt facilities must meet Performance Standards in [WAC 173-350-040](#).

To see the exemptions and the conditions check:

- Composting Facility Standards [WAC 173-350-220 Table 220-A]
- Other Organic Material Handling Activities Standards [WAC 173-350-225 Table 225-A]
- Anaerobic Digesters Standards [WAC 173-350-250 Table 250-A]

If you are thinking of managing organics that will fit into one of these exemptions, contact an Ecology organic materials specialist. They can help you with the exemption process.

If a permit is required

The review of your proposal can take up to 3 months or more. If your proposal requires a solid waste permit, you need to **involve your local JHD as early as possible**. Solid waste permits are valid from one to five years at the discretion of the JHD.

If a solid waste permit is required, the [Composting Facility Checklist for Review of Solid Waste Permit Application](#) is a useful tool as permit applicants prepare the permit forms. It is also used by permit reviewers to determine if the application is complete. Other necessary permits may include: air, stormwater, conditional use, zoning, land use, construction and building. The Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA) can help determine what other permits may be needed.

MORE INFORMATION

[Ecology's Organic Materials Management](#) website includes information on organics management.

Starting up a Compost facility?

Contact:

- JHDs: [Solid Waste Information Clearinghouse](#) (see Health Dept.)
- [Ecology's organic materials specialists](#)
- [Ecology's biosolids specialists](#) (if composting biosolids)
- [Office of Regulatory Assistance](#)

Anaerobic Digestion:

[WA Department of Agriculture \(Dairy Nutrient Management program\)](#)

[WA Department of Health \(Office of Environmental Health, Safety, and Toxicology\)](#)

Other Organizations:

[Washington Organic Recycling Council](#) offers Operator Training.

[US Composting Council](#) offers Compost Operations Training.

[Northwest Biosolids Management Association](#)

Special accommodations

If you require special accommodations or need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Waste 2 Resources Program at (360) 407-6900.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.