

General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations

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Activities Exempt from the General Order

- **Agricultural composting;**
- **Chipping and grinding facilities and operations;**
- Lot clearing by local gov't agencies (i.e., grubbing, tree trimming, etc.) for fire protection;
- Composting activities within a fully-enclosed vessel;
- **Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 500 cubic yards (cy) of allowable materials at any given time;**
- **Composting operations that receive, process, and store less than 5,000 cy per year of allowable Tier I or Tier II feedstocks, additives, and amendments, and implement management practices.**

Agricultural Composting

- The operation of composting conducted in agricultural settings where: (1) feedstocks consist of materials generated onsite by production of farm, ranch, agricultural, horticultural, silvicultural, floricultural, vermicultural, or viticultural products, for example, orchard and vineyard prunings, culls and crop residues, and spoiled or unsalvageable food commodities (but not including animal carcasses), and; (2) the resulting compost product is returned to that same agricultural site, or an agricultural site owned by the owner of the composting activity and applied at an agronomic rate. No more than an incidental amount of up to 1,000 cubic yards of compost product may be given away or sold annually.

Agricultural Material

- Consists of pre-consumer plant materials coming directly from lands used in the production of farm, agricultural, horticultural, aquacultures, silvicultural, floricultural, vermicultural, or viticultural products, including orchard and vineyard prunings, and crop residues. Agricultural material does not include manure.

Total Facility Capacity

Tier I

- **<25,000 cy**
 - Limited allowable feedstock choices
 - Specific siting criteria

Tier II

- **≥ 25,000 cy**
 - Additional feedstock choices
 - Additional design requirements

Allowable Feedstocks

Tier I

- Agricultural materials
- Green materials
- Paper materials
- Vegetative food materials
- Anaerobic digestate derived from allowable Tier I feedstocks
- Residentially co-collected or self-hauled food and green materials

Tier II

- Food materials (non-vegetative)
- Biosolids (Class A, B, and/or EQ)
- Manure
- Anaerobic digestate derived from allowable Tier II feedstocks
- A combination of allowable Tier I and Tier II feedstocks

Contacts

■ State Board

■ Web Address

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/compost/

■ Email

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■ Regional Board

■ Web Address

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/compost/docs/rwqcb_compostcontacts.pdf