

#0495

Registering as a Class III Solid Waste Composting Facility

September 1999

What are Class III composting facilities?

In Ohio, Class III solid waste composting facilities accept only source-separated yard waste and/or animal wastes as feedstocks, and authorized bulking agents.

Yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, brush, garden waste, tree trunks, holiday trees, tree trimming and/or pruning.

Animal wastes include animal excreta, bedding, wash waters, waste feed, and silage drainage.

Authorized bulking agents include source-separated wood chips, straw, shredded newspaper, shredded cardboard, sawdust, and shredded brush. These bulking agents can be commingled at the facility.

Solid wastes such as food scraps, metal items, glass and plastics are prohibited in a Class III composting facility.

Who should register as a Class III composting facility?

Anyone who wants to compost animal wastes and distribute the compost product must register as a Class III facility.

Are Class III facilities limited in size?

Yes, Class III facilities are limited to a maximum of 15,000 square yards (3 acres) of total area for the placement of materials.

If you want to compost animal wastes at a facility larger than 15,000 square yards, you must register as a Class II facility. Contact your Ohio EPA district office, or a composting specialist at Ohio EPA- Central Office for information on Class II facilities. (Please see phone list on the back of this sheet).

How do I register?

To register with Ohio EPA as a Class III facility, you need to complete a registration application form, including a plan view drawing of the facility. You can obtain an application form and assistance completing the form by contacting your Ohio EPA district office, or the composting unit at Ohio EPA- Central Office. (Please see phone list on the back of this sheet).

Are there any fees for registering?

No, there is no cost involved in the registration. Licensing and financial assurance requirements are not applicable.

What needs to be included in the plan view drawing?

The plan view drawing must provide information inside the facility boundaries and within 500 feet beyond the facility boundaries. It must be on a scale of 1 inch equals no greater than 100 feet. This information includes, at a minimum, the property lines, any public roadways, occupied structures, topography (i.e. streams, wetlands), any water supply wells, limits of the regulatory floodway, and location of the on-site materials placement areas. Please, refer to Rule 3745-27-41 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) for more details.

A hand drawn plan view drawing in a 8.5 x 11 inch paper is acceptable, but it must be drawn to scale and provide the same information required.

What are the siting criteria for Class III facilities?

OAC Rule 3745-27-45 requires that the materials placement area are; not located in a floodway, national or state park; at least 100 feet from any surface waters of the state; and at least 250 feet from a domicile.

Do the rules establish operational requirements?

Yes, OAC Rule 3745-27-45 establishes facility operations requirements for Class III composting facilities. Record keeping requirements include maintaining a daily log and formulating a contingency plan to address emergencies and receipt of unauthorized wastes. Methodologies and technical requirements are specified, such as maintaining aerobic conditions, controlling nuisances and litter, and controlling drainage and runoff. Also specified are the requirements for distances of the materials from wells and streams.

Are leachates a concern?

Yes, because of the possible presence of pathogens in animal manure, any leachate at Class III facilities has to be contained and re-introduced into the composting process, or transported or discharged to an approved treatment facility.

Can I sell my compost?

Yes, cured compost that meets the testing requirements can be sold, given away, or land applied.

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What are the testing requirements?

The testing requirements include demonstration of pathogen reduction, and analysis for pH, salinity, organic matter, cadmium, lead and percent foreign matter.

Farmers, who compost animal wastes generated from animals they own and use all of the compost produced on their own property, are exempted from the testing requirements. However, if a farmer accepts animal wastes from other sources or distributes cured compost, the testing requirement will apply.

Are other agencies or Ohio EPA divisions involved?

Class III composting facilities must comply with other applicable state and federal regulations which may not be included in this guidance document. Composting facilities that are designed or operated in a particular manner, which may include wastewater and storm water discharges and/or air emissions, could involve additional requirements and/or approvals from Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water, and Division of Air Pollution Control. Please, contact your Ohio EPA district office for more information.

Local zoning and requirements through the local solid waste management district may also be applicable (contact the appropriate local agencies).

For more information about solid waste issues, and composting, please contact your local health department, Ohio EPA district office, or a composting specialist in the Ohio EPA- Central Office at (614) 644-2621.

Ohio EPA District Offices:

Northeast Ohio:

330-963-1200

Northwest Ohio:

419-352-8461

Central Ohio:

614-728-3778

Southeast Ohio:

740-385-8501

Southwest Ohio:

937-285-6357