

A-24 Commercial Composting

This activity applies to commercial receiving and composting wastes.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs:

- Screen incoming waste for dangerous materials and solid waste. These materials may not be accepted for composting and must be properly disposed of.
- Locate composting areas on impervious surfaces.
- Drain all leachate from composting operations to a sanitary sewer, holding tank, or on-site treatment system. Leachate may not go to the storm drain system or groundwater.
- Collect the leachate with a dike or berm, or with intercepting drains placed on the down slope side of the compost area.
- Direct outside runoff away from the composting areas.

Required Routine Maintenance:

- Clean up debris from yard areas as needed to prevent stormwater contamination.

Supplemental BMPs:

- Install catch basin inserts to collect excess sediment and debris if necessary. Inspect and maintain catch basin inserts to ensure they are working correctly.

Additional Information:

- Disposal Options Information Sheet
- Containment Information Sheet. Refer to the King County Health Code for full compliance.
- Catch Basin Insert Information Sheet

When stormwater is allowed to contact any active composting area, it becomes leachate and must be separated from stormwater runoff. All commercial-composting operations must comply with Seattle-King County Health Department requirements. Commercial composting operations require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Department of Ecology.

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.