



## Small Yard Waste Composting Sites Technical Guidance Document SW-1997-G1

Although not subject to permitting requirements, small yard-waste composting sites (operations with composting areas equal to or less than one-half acre) are subject to K.A.R. 28-29-25a and should implement operational procedures which will reduce the possibility of odor and other nuisances. This guidance document suggests methods that small yard-waste composting operations can use to avoid or correct common problems.

### Run-on/run-off control

1. Build a berm or similar barrier to prevent water from running on to the site.
2. Build a berm or settling pond to collect run-off or provide a large grass buffer area to filter run-off.

### Minimization of odors

1. Turn the pile often enough to keep the composting process aerobic.
2. Add enough dry matter to allow aeration.
3. Keep the pile small enough to be easily turned. It should be:
  - less than 8 ft. wide;
  - less than 5 ft. high; and
  - a length that allows equipment to maneuver around the ends.
4. Locate the site a sufficient distance from the nearest residence to prevent a nuisance.

### Illegal dumping control

1. Educate the public on appropriate materials for composting.
2. Post operating hours and list appropriate materials for composting.
3. Provide a dumpster for inappropriate material.
4. Provide fencing or other access control.

### Minimization of composting time

In general the compost should be ready to use in 6 to 24 months.

1. Mix approximately equal parts of "green" and "brown" material.
2. Turn the pile as necessary to provide air.
3. Add water to keep the pile about as wet as a damp sponge.
4. Segregate active and finished compost.

For additional information regarding the proper management of solid or hazardous waste in Kansas, you may visit the Bureau of Waste Management website at <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/> or contact the Bureau at: (785) 296-1600, [bwm\\_web@kdheks.gov](mailto:bwm_web@kdheks.gov), or the address at the top of this document.