

The application of grade II sludge is not a normal farming operation under the rules. Since grade III sludge must generally be disposed of where it will have the least harmful effect on the environment, it is unsuitable for application to farm land. All uses which are not normal farming operations will require DER permits. The DER may require a general permit for application of less harmful sludge, but may require more restrictive permits (including solid waste disposal site permits) for the application or disposal of more harmful sludge.

Cautions that apply to the use or disposal of sludge:

- Sludge may never be dumped into the ocean, surface or ground waters.
- Sludge ponds may only be used for the temporary storage of sludge, generally for 12 hours or less.
- Sludge containing hazardous wastes may never be applied to agricultural lands, and may require disposal under more restrictive, hazardous waste regulations.
- Separate restrictions apply where sludge is being applied to public access lands, like parks or playgrounds.
- Depending upon the type of the sludge and land involved, there may be waiting periods of various lengths which must be observed before the public may be allowed access to any land to which sludge has been applied.

How is used oil regulated?

Both state and federal laws are consistent in their prohibitions against the haphazard disposal of used oil. It is clearly a violation to:

- discharge oil into sewers, drainage systems, septic tanks, surface or groundwaters, watercourses or marine waters.
- dispose of oil in a landfill, or commingle (mix) oil with other wastes for the purpose of disposing of it in a landfill.
- release used oil into the environment through any process, including, for example, weed control, in an area where a sole source aquifer has been designated.

Further, all processors and transporters of used oil must register with the DER yearly, and all facilities for handling used oil must obtain DER permits.

What can be composted from waste?

The DER has established detailed regulations for the production and use of compost created from waste. The scope of these regulations does not encompass the use of compost obtained from normal farming operations on the land where it was generated.

You may compost:

- Wastes produced in "normal farming operations", such as activities used in the production of poultry, livestock or agricultural crops. Normal waste from these operations includes organic waste, manure and wastes derived solely from agricultural crops.
- Any facilities producing compost must obtain permits from the DER and comply with detailed DER regulations.

You may not compost:

- Compost from solid waste may never be used as fill material in any body of surface water. Also, the DER regulations prohibit any application of compost that would endanger public health or the environment.