

Education & Outreach

To help protect water quality, the Water Boards, in collaboration with CalRecycle and other agencies, are conducting an expanded education and outreach program for haulers, waste management organizations and landowners to convey information about potential impacts from the land application of uncomposted organic materials.

CalRecycle's new regulations include limits on land applied compostable materials:

- Physical contaminants
- Metal concentration
- Pathogens
- Application depth and frequency

More on CalRecycle's regulations can be found at the following:

Land Application Guidance

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LEA/Regs/Implement/LandApp.htm>

Composting Regulations

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Laws/Regulations/Title14/ch31.htm>

Additional information on the Water Board's program is located at:

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

LANDOWNERS

You too can help prevent illegal land application.

Take action to help to reduce threats to water quality, stop the spread of harmful invasive pests and encourage conditions that promote healthy soils.

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Land Application of Uncomposted Organic Materials in California





What is land application?

It is the spreading of **uncomposted organic materials** on land including rangeland and cropland.

These materials may include:

- Grass clippings, weeds, shrubbery, brush, trees, leaves, garden waste, plant trimmings, bark, agricultural plants or food waste

How can land application threaten water quality and the environment?

Land application of uncomposted organic materials may:

- Contain harmful pollutants such as metals, pathogens or other waste components
- Harbor damaging insects (e.g. *Shot Hole Borer*)



Photo Credit: Akif Eskalen, Dept. Plant Pathology, UC Riverside

In addition, uncomposted organic materials from sources such as curbside waste collection may be contaminated with:

- Trash, plastics, food, glass, metals, pet waste and other materials

The over-application of uncomposted organic materials has the potential to adversely affect the quality of surface water and groundwater including sources of drinking water.



Do I need a permit?

As a landowner or operator you may be required to obtain permits (i.e. Waste Discharge Requirements) from your Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) and other agencies if planning to spread uncomposted organic materials on land.

For permitting information please contact your Regional Water Board. To find your Regional Water Board contact information please go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml

What if I don't get a permit or follow the rules?

The State or Regional Water Boards may take enforcement action against landowners or operators for illegal land application.

Which may require you to:

- Pay significant fines
- Clean up your property
- Obtain the necessary permits