



Navy Environmental Quality Fact Sheet



Do you want to increase diversion of compostable materials from landfills?

Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- **Meet environmental compliance regulations.** Reduce the volume of organic material disposed of in landfills. Media area is solid waste.
- **Improve workers' safety and health.** No change from current operations.
- **Increase productivity.** Composting operations may require *additional* resources to manage the source separation and collection of compostable materials.
- **Save money.** Reduce waste transportation costs and disposal costs. Reduce the cost of purchasing compost for installation landscapes.



Windrow Composting

Operations at Navy installations result in the generation of over 1 million tons of solid waste (SW) annually at a cost of over 43 million dollars to landfill and incinerate. According to the Franklin Characterization study, 67% of the SW generated in 1997 is organic material (i.e., paper, yard trimmings, wood and food) that can be composted. Although most paper materials are generally profitable to recycle, yard trimmings, wood and food wastes are not. These wastes can be composted as an alternative to landfilling. Composting also counts as diversion toward meeting the Department of Defense Measure of Merit (MOM) goal. In most locations, composting is less expensive than landfilling or incineration. Before implementing a composting operation, confer with an expert to select the best type of composting operation (windrow, in-vessel, static pile, etc.) at your installation. Some of the many factors that can influence the composting technology at your installation include the following: climate, geography, type of material, and the quantity of material to compost.

How can you achieve these improvements?

Consider composting at your installation.

How does this system work?

Composting biologically decomposes organic waste into mature compost that can be applied to landscapes.

How will this system save you money?

By composting, the cost of landfilling and incineration is avoided and landfill life may be extended. For a complete economic analysis of various composting options, refer to Joint Service P2 Opportunity Handbook Datasheets in sections 7-II/ A & B.

Typical Process Flow Diagram



How can this method eliminate or reduce pollution?

Composting diverts organic waste from incinerators and landfills by converting it into usable mature compost. Use of composting methods will result in the following pollution reductions:

- Reduce the quantity of solid waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators.
- Reduce the quantity of solid waste transported off-site from Navy installations.

Which operations can benefit most from this method?

Composting methods can be used in any process that generates compostable solid waste. Typical operations include:

- Landscaping
- Grounds maintenance
- Food preparation and handling
- Construction and demolition

How can this method reduce regulatory compliance concerns?

Use of composting methods will result in the following regulatory compliance benefits:

- May help facilities meet Navy, state and local solid waste diversion goals.
- May help facilities meet pertinent solid waste reduction goals including the Department of Defense Measure of Merit goal to ensure the diversion rate for non-hazardous solid waste is greater than 40%.



Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by using pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This fact sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to use pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

For additional information, contact:

Joint Service P2 Opportunity Handbook Datasheets for Vermicomposting, Static Pile and In-Vessel Composting (http://p2library.nfesc.navy.mil/P2_Opportunity_Handbook/section7.html) and the PPEP Equipment Book (<http://www.lakehurst.navy.mil/p2/index.htm>)

Program POC:

(805) 982-5318, DSN 551-5318

E-mail: Fact.Sheet.ProgramPOC@nfesc.navy.mil

Technical POC:

(805) 982-4882, DSN 551-4882

