Guidance on compost storage and stockpiling



Cleanaway compost: A living soil conditioner

Cleanaway's compost is produced from the conversion of household and commercial food organics, using an intensive composting system. The compost product produced from this system is an effective soil conditioner, suitable for improving soils in agricultural, degraded mines, parks and gardens and more.

Cleanaway's compost contains millions of microorganisms that biologically convert food scraps and garden waste into compost. These microorganisms are extremely valuable and can encourage microbial activity to improve soil structure and health.

Cleanaway compost is pasteurised during the composting process, meaning pathogens and weed seeds are destroyed. Some applications may require large quantities of compost per site. Due to the biological activity in our compost and the volume of compost that can be required, there are a few key delivery and storage protocols to follow. These will reduce potential negative environmental impacts and keep your product fresher for longer.

Compost stockpile management

Our Cleanaway Compost will continue to maintain some biological activity after delivery. It is important to build your stockpile to a size that encourages natural aeration. This keeps your Cleanaway compost in good condition until you are ready to spread.

A stockpile should be built preferably in rows that are not compacted and no higher than 3 metres. This will allow for natural ventilation and support product longevity while it waits for use on your site. Your Cleanaway compost should ideally be stored close to the application site, minimising costs associated with handling and spreading. Please also keep in mind sensitive facilities and nearby neighours.

Cleanaway compost will soak up rainfall it's exposed to. This may result in the formation of a dry surface crust over time. When this happens, run-off issues may be less significant than you first thought however, keep in mind that any run-off is to be contained. This is often achieved by diversion banks or bunding, to ensure the run-off doesn't enter any waterways or ground water.





Livestock Exclusion and Biosecurity Legisltation 2017

These food scraps could contain small amounts of residual animal material (RAM) and as a result, means our compost should be handled on farm in a similar way to the way chicken manure is handled, preventing livestock accessing the product. The below information from NSW DPI on products containing RAM should be taken into consideration:

Before ruminants graze a treated paddock, ensure there is no visible treatment material (ie organic fertiliser or soil amendment). The time this takes post-application will vary, depending on the rate of pasture growth and rainfall/irrigation.

Some handling suggestions include:

- Store compost within a fenced area to separate inquisitive livestock from the stockpile
- Do not allow livestock to graze on treated paddocks for 3 weeks after compost application, or until the pasture reaches a height of 20cm.



You can find more information on the NSW DPI website. Scan the QR code for quick access to the relevant documents.

Environmental Controls

The Compost Exemption 2016 outlines specific requirements for the use of compost. Incorrect application or storage can lead to unnecessary, adverse environmental impacts, similar to the misuse of fertilisers and animal manures. As such the NSW EPA requires:

- The compost be applied to land as a soil amendment.
- The compost does not cause or permit the migration of leachate from the land application site.
- The compost is used within a reasonable period after its receipt.



You can learn more about the NSW EPA requirements by scanning this QR code

Takeaway notes

- Cleanaway compost a living product which will remain active until it is applied to land
- Lay out sufficient space for all your incoming deliveries
- Contain any run-off

- Form uncompacted stockpiles, less than 3 m high
- Try to locate your stockpiles nearby to the area it will be used
- Exclude livestock from stockpile locations

For More Information Contact **Cleanaway Organics** 02 9677 3120 nswcompost@cleanaway.com.au

