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Yard Waste Composting

2 messages

Stephen B Letson <stephen_b_letson@whirlpool.com>
To: "Lee, Brian" <brian.lee@dnr.iowa.gov>

Wed, Nov 19, 2025 at 10:49 AM

Good Morning Mr. Lee:

I have a question for you. Here at Whirlpool in Amana, we clean up downed leaves, tree limbs and also generate grass clippings from lawn maintenance. In an attempt to reduce costs for disposal in the IA County Landfill, I was wondering what if any regulations would be applicable for us to have our own natural waste refuse pile or composting area? I know there are specific requirements for these that are at publicly accessible locations, but did not know if any would be for private entities.

If you could reply back and let me know any potential regulatory requirements or needs, I would greatly appreciate it.



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Lee, Brian <brian.lee@dnr.iowa.gov>
To: Stephen B Letson <stephen_b_letson@whirlpool.com>

Thu, Nov 20, 2025 at 7:10 AM

Mr. Letson,

See the snip of our compost rules chapter below. If you are composting materials that originate on site and using the compost on site, then no permit is needed. Care must still be taken to minimize runoff from any compost operation.

567—105.2(455B,455D) Exemptions. The following projects are exempt from this chapter. This exemption is not a defense to a nuisance action brought pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 657.

105.2(1) Yard waste or household organic waste composted and used on the same premises where it originated.

105.2(2) Composting facilities involving agricultural waste, excluding dead animals, and clean wood waste which is necessary as bulking agent and which is free of coatings and preservatives. Use of any other materials as bulking agent shall require prior approval by the department. If agricultural waste is mixed with other wastes including dead animals for the purpose of composting, then this chapter shall apply unless the other wastes have been preapproved by the department as necessary as bulking agent.

105.2(3) Yard waste, household organic waste, and agricultural waste generated, composted together in any combination and used on the same premises where they originated.

These rules are undergoing revision and based on my conversation with our compost staff, exempt status will remain if less than 2 tons of compost are produced per year. These rules are planned to take effect in mid-2026. If you wish, you may contact Theresa Stiner at theresa.stiner@dnr.iowa.gov or at 515-721-7979 to discuss.

Please let me know if you need any additional assistance.

Brian