

Guidance

Compost from waste: resource framework

How to meet 'end of waste' status for compost produced from source-segregated biodegradable waste.

From: **Environment Agency** (</government/organisations/environment-agency>)

Applies to England

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1. The purpose of the resource framework

This resource framework relates to compost produced from source-segregated biodegradable waste (biowaste).

This resource framework is to help you understand when compost products are no longer considered waste. Meaning they meet the [‘end of waste’ test](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-material-is-waste) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-material-is-waste>). This is so you can:

- understand when you no longer need to follow [waste management controls](https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste) (<https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste>) for compost products
- be confident that the quality of compost produced meets an approved standard
- be confident that the quality of compost produced is suitable for use in appropriate markets
- protect human health and prevent pollution of the environment

2. Waste you can use

To follow this resource framework, you must only use source-segregated biodegradable materials as defined in the [British Standard Institution’s Publicly Available Specification 100 \(2018\) \(BSI PAS 100\)](#).

And the materials you use must comply with the waste codes, descriptions and restrictions in the following tables.

2.1. Wastes from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, food preparation and processing

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
02 01 01	Sludges from washing and cleaning	Only vegetables, fruit and other crops
02 01 02	Animal tissue waste	None
02 01 03	Plant-tissue waste	Includes straw, other crop residues, riverine vegetation and spent growing media based on plant issues, such as compost derived from source-segregated biodegradable waste, peat and bark

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
02 01 06	Animal faeces, urine and manure	Includes animal faeces, urine, manure and spoiled fully biodegradable bedding
02 01 07	Wastes from forestry	Only green waste and plant tissue
02 01 99	Wastes not otherwise specified	Only spent mushroom compost or discarded mushrooms from commercial mushroom cultivation

2.2. Wastes from the preparation and processing of meat, fish and other foods of animal origin

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
02 02 01	Sludges from washing and cleaning, peeling, centrifuging and separation including wash waters and sludges from secondary food processing or the cook chill sector	None
02 02 02	Animal tissue waste	May include blood and animal gut contents
02 02 03	Material unsuitable for consumption or processing	May include gut contents, shells and shellfish wastes. Includes sludges from gelatine production.
02 02 04	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	Only wastes from preparation and processing of meat, fish and other foods of animal origin

2.3. Wastes from fruit, vegetables, cereals, edible oils, cocoa, coffee, tea and tobacco preparation and processing, conserve production, yeast and yeast extract production, molasses preparation and fermentation

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
02 03 01	Sludges from washing, cleaning, peeling, centrifuging and separation	Only sludges from food processing
02 03 04	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	Only biodegradable waste. There must be no chemical additives or toxin residues present.
02 03 05	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment or processing sludge from production of edible fats and oils, including seasoning residues	None

2.4. Wastes from the dairy products industry

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
02 05 01	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	Includes raw milk. Must only be biodegradable waste.
02 05 02	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	None

2.5. Wastes from the baking and confectionary industry

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
02 06 01	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	Only biodegradable waste
02 06 03	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	None

2.6. Wastes from the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
02 07 01	Wastes from washing, cleaning and mechanical reduction of raw materials	Only biodegradable wastes from the processing of the raw materials used in the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)
02 07 02	Wastes from spirits distillation	Only spent grains, hops and whisky filter sheets and cloths, yeast and yeast like residues, sludge from the distillation process, or malt husks, malt sprouts, yeasts and yeast-like residues
02 07 04	Material unsuitable for consumption or processing	Only biodegradable wastes from processing raw materials used in producing alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)
02 07 05	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	Only sludges from the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)

2.7. Wastes from wood processing and the production of panels and furniture, pulp, paper and cardboard

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
03 01 01	Waste bark and cork	Only virgin timber
03 01 05	Sawdust, shavings, cuttings, wood and particle board other than those in 03 01 04 only	Only virgin timber

2.8. Wastes from pulp, paper, and cardboard production and processing

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
03 03 01	Waste wood and bark	Only virgin timber
03 03 10	Fibre rejects, fibre-, filler- and coating-sludges from mechanical separation	Only allowed if not mixed with, or does not contain, de-inking sludge
03 03 11	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment other than those mentioned in 03 03 10	Only allowed if not mixed with, or does not contain, de-inking sludge

2.9. Wastes from the textile industry

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
04 02 10	Organic matter from natural products (for example grease, wax)	Only biodegradable material
04 02 21	Wastes from unprocessed textile fibres	Only biodegradable material

2.10. Waste from the manufacture, formulation, supply and use of plastics, synthetic rubber and man-made, fibres

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
07 02 13	Waste plastic	Only unused and uncontaminated excess production that meets the restriction for the waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section

2.11. Waste packaging; absorbents, filter materials wiping cloths and protective clothing

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
15 01 01	Paper and cardboard packaging	<p>Only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the material complies with the restriction for the waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section - there is no non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance present
15 01 02	Plastic packaging	Must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section
15 01 03	Wooden packaging	Only virgin timber
15 01 05	Composite packaging	<p>Only if each component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comes from the input types allowed by this resource framework - meets the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section
15 01 09	Textile packaging	Only natural fibres
15 02 03	Absorbents, filter materials or cloths from the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages other than those mentioned in 15 02 02	Only hops and whisky filter sheets and cloths made from compostable material

2.12. Wastes not otherwise specified in the list

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
16 03 06	Organic wastes other than those mentioned in 16 03 05	Only untreated wool fleece (excludes hides and skins)
16 10 02	Aqueous liquid wastes other than those mentioned in 16 10 01	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - milk and dairy waste milk from agricultural premises - untreated wash waters from cleaning fruit and vegetables on farm <p>Digestate or liquor must come from an aerobic process that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only accepts the waste input types allowed by this resource framework - meets the EU Regulation 1069/2009, its implementing EU Regulation 142/2011 (as amended) and The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 <p>Liquor or leachate must come from a composting process that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only accepts the waste input types allowed by this resource framework - meets the EU Regulation 1069/2009, its implementing EU Regulation 142/2011 (as amended) and The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013

2.13. Soil (including excavated soil from contaminated sites), stones and dredging spoil

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
17 05 06	Dredging spoil other than that in 17 05 05	<p>Only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riverine vegetation (and not associated dredged mineral material) - dredged vegetation - dredging spoil if a hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) assessment considers the pollutants that may be present and the risk control to be acceptable <p>Must not contain Japanese knotweed</p>

2.14. Wastes from physico-chemical treatment of wastes

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
19 02 03	Premixed wastes composed only of non-hazardous wastes	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type
19 02 06	Sludges from physico-chemical treatment other than those mentioned in 19 02 05	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the physical treatment or pH adjustment of the input types allowed by this resource framework - be segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type

2.15. Wastes from aerobic treatment of solid wastes

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
19 05 01	Non-composted fraction of municipal and similar wastes	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be made up of previously sanitised batches
19 05 02	Non-composted fraction of animal and vegetable wastes	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be made up of previously sanitised batches
19 05 03	Off-specification compost	<p>The compost must only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework or the anaerobic digestate resource framework. This includes oversize material that comes from screening the compost. Must be made up of previously sanitised batches.</p>

2.16. Wastes from anaerobic treatment of solid wastes

Waste code	Waste description	
19 06 03	Liquor from anaerobic treatment of municipal waste	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 <p>Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities</p>
19 06 04	Digestate from anaerobic treatment of municipal waste	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input

Waste code	Waste description	
		<p>types allowed by this resource framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 - be in pasteurised and stabilised batches that are authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency - only contain waste inputs from the 'Waste you can use' section of the anaerobic digestate resource framework <p>Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities</p>
19 06 05	Liquor from anaerobic treatment of animal and vegetable waste	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 - be in pasteurised and stabilised batches that are authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency <p>Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities</p>
19 06 06	Digestate from anaerobic treatment of animal and vegetable waste	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 - be in pasteurised and stabilised batches that are

Waste code	Waste description	
		authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency
		Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities
19 12 01	Paper and cardboard (excluding veneers or plastic coatings)	Must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section
19 12 12	Other wastes (including mixtures of materials) from mechanical treatment of wastes other than those mentioned in 19 12 11	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type

2.17. Wastes from the mechanical treatment of waste not otherwise specified

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
19 12 01	Paper and cardboard (excluding veneers or plastic coatings)	Must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section
19 12 12	Other wastes (including mixtures of materials) from mechanical treatment of wastes other than those mentioned in 19 12 11	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type - be biodegradable waste

2.18. Municipal waste (household waste and similar commercial, industrial and institutional wastes) including separately collected fractions

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
20 01 01	Paper and cardboard	This must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section. Must not contain any non-biodegradable coating or preservative.
20 01 08	Biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste	This must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section
20 01 25	Edible oil and fat	None
20 01 39	Plastics	This must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section

2.19. Garden and park wastes (including cemetery waste)

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
20 02 01	Biodegradable waste	<p>This must be biodegradable material such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- manure- garden waste- green waste- horticultural waste- plant tissue- parks and garden waste- hedge and tree trimmings- grass cuttings and leafy materials <p>It must not contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- material with chemical additives and toxic residues- road sweeping gully waste

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dog faeces - Japanese knotweed

2.20. Other municipal wastes

Waste code	Waste description	Restrictions
20 03 01	Mixed municipal waste	This must be separately collected biodegradable wastes that are the types allowed by this resource framework. Any food packaging must meet the restriction for the waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section.
20 03 02	Waste from markets	This must be separately collected biodegradable wastes that are the types allowed by this resource framework. Such as plant material, fruit and vegetables. Any food packaging must meet the restriction for the waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section.

Note 1

You can only use industrially compostable packaging and non-packaging items that are independently certified as compliant with at least one of the following:

- EN 13432
- EN 14995
- ASTM D6400

You can only use home compostable packaging and non-packaging items that are independently certified as compliant with at least one of the following:

- EN 17427
- AS 5810-2010
- NF T51-800

- TÜV Austria's certification requirements for home compostable packaging under their 'OK compost HOME scheme'

3. When the final product is not considered waste

3.1. Compost produced from source-segregated biodegradable waste will have met the [end of waste test \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-material-is-waste\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-material-is-waste), and so not be considered waste anymore, if you can show all of the following:

- it has been produced using only the source-segregated biodegradable waste materials approved in section 2 of this resource framework
- you have stored and processed the waste correctly, in line with section 3.2 of this resource framework
- it needs no further treatment other than the methods described in BSI PAS 100 before its intended use
- it meets any extra specification requested by and agreed with your customer
- there is certainty of use for the material

If so, you will no longer have to follow [waste management controls \(https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste\)](https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste) when you either:

- dispatch the products to the customer from your production site
- store the products at your production site or storage locations under your control

You must not store any batch of your product for more than 10 months. And you must have at least one of the following:

- contracts of supply or sales orders (or both) that cover the quantity of the same product in storage at any time
- sales history for the most recent 12 months that shows at least as much of the same product type was supplied for use

3.2. You must process and store the waste in line with the specification defined in BSI PAS 100.

3.3. The maximum allowed concentration of plastic is 0.06% m/m in air-dry compost. This is equivalent to 50% of the plastics limit that is part of Item 12 in Table 3 of BSI PAS 100.

3.4. Certified compost in storage with little chance of use is considered waste. This means you must follow [waste management controls \(https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste\)](https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste).

4. Providing evidence that quality compost has been produced

4.1. Get certification from an approved third-party certification body

4.1.1. You must show you comply with the requirements of this resource framework, including all the conditions of BSI PAS 100. You must prove this to a certification body that is:

- appointed by the Compost Certification Scheme
- operating in line with scheme rules agreed with the Environment Agency
- accredited, or can demonstrate working towards accreditation to ISO 17065:2012 (or its latest equivalent) by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), maintained annually

4.1.2. As part of the certification process, you must:

- make and keep records for a minimum of 4 years – following the guidance in sections 4.2 and 4.3 of this resource framework
- make these records available to the certification body for certification purposes

4.1.3. The Environment Agency will agree scheme rules if:

- the method of certification shows that you have met the requirements of the resource framework and BSI PAS 100
- your compliance with the resource framework and BSI PAS 100 are certified annually by an independent certification body that is accredited in line with point 4.1.1.
- the accredited certification body is accredited to certify compost
- certification verifies source documentation, evidence of site management procedures (including compliance with the quality management system) and laboratory test results
- the certification body or its authorised contractor carries out at least one site inspection a year to check and confirm on-site documentation
- an impartial committee oversees the certification process

4.2. Record your incoming waste

4.2.1. Your records need to include:

- the waste code and waste description, in compliance with your environmental permit or exemption
- its volume or weight
- the source of the waste
- the date of delivery
- the name and address of supplier
- the name and address of carrier
- your method for confirming the waste is acceptable input material – and, if it's not acceptable (including only in part), your rejection reasons and what you did with the rejected waste

4.3. Record your outgoing product

4.3.1. This includes producing and keeping copies of customer supply documentation. This must contain a declaration that the final product meets:

- BSI PAS 100
- the requirements of this resource framework
- any additional customer specifications (as agreed between the supplier and the customer)

4.3.2. You must make all records available for inspection by the regulator, if requested.

5. Compliance with legislation outside of waste regulation

5.1. This resource framework does not change your requirement to comply with other relevant legislation, including the legislation referred to in the following guidance:

- [Animal By-Products Regulations](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-the-animal-by-product-industry)
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-the-animal-by-product-industry>)
- [Farming Rules for Water](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-the-farming-rules-for-water/applying-the-farming-rules-for-water)
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-the-farming-rules-for-water/applying-the-farming-rules-for-water>)
- [Codes of Good Agricultural Practices](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air)
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air>)

5.2. Failing to do this, or to comply with [waste management controls](https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste) (<https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste>) when you cannot show

compliance with this resource framework, may be an offence.

5.3. Spreading to land: compliance with nutrient management plans

5.3.1. When you are supplying compost to agriculture, your compost supply documents must tell the customer that:

- they must have a nutrient management plan (NMP) before use
- they must apply compost in line with the NMP, along with any other organic manures and manufactured fertilisers, at rates that do not exceed soil and crop need
- they are responsible for following their NMP – if they do not do this, the Environment Agency may take enforcement action
- where there is no soil and crop need for compost, it is considered waste and they must follow [waste management controls](https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste) (<https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste>)

5.3.2. If you do not do this, the Environment Agency may take action in line with its [enforcement and sanctions policy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy>).

6. Compliant products: loss of non-waste status

6.1. Compost that's compliant with this resource framework will become waste again (meaning you must follow [waste management controls](https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste) (<https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste>)) if, at any stage:

- you discard it
- you plan to discard it
- it is required to be discarded
- it is applied in excess of soil and crop requirements
- it is stored indefinitely with little prospect of being used

6.2. This applies to anyone holding stores of compost, not just producers.

7. Mixing compliant products with waste and non-waste

7.1. If you mix compost that is compliant with this resource framework with other waste material, the whole mixed volume becomes waste and you

must follow [waste management controls \(https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste\)](https://www.gov.uk/dispose-business-commercial-waste).

7.2. If you mix compost that is compliant with this resource framework with other non-waste material, the whole mixed volume is not waste. Doing this is not considered further treatment. For example, blending compost which has met the compost resource framework with digestate that has met the anaerobic digestate resource framework is not a waste activity, as neither material is waste. But you must keep to the requirements of section 6.

8. Standards and specifications which apply to this resource framework

8.1. BSI PAS 100

The only standard which applies to this resource framework is BSI PAS 100. You can download copies of BSI PAS 100 from:

- [BSI \(https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/specification-for-composted-materials?version=standard\)](https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/specification-for-composted-materials?version=standard)
- [Renewable Energy Assurance Limited \(https://www.qualitycompost.org.uk/documents/pas100\)](https://www.qualitycompost.org.uk/documents/pas100)

9. Updates to this resource framework

The Environment Agency will review this resource framework in summer 2026, with support from industry. The Environment Agency may update or withdraw this resource framework before this date because of:

- pollution incidents
- the resource framework being used incorrectly
- developments in scientific understanding
- a change in the market
- a change in legislation or case law
- a change to the agreed industry standard or input materials

You can subscribe to email updates about this resource framework. These will tell you if it has changed and when it has been withdrawn. Use the 'Get emails about this page' link on this page.

10. If you have questions about this resource framework

General enquiries

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