



Options for Wood Waste Use and Disposal Under Provincial Legislation

The options for wood waste use and disposal under provincial, environmental legislation are listed below in order of most preferred by the Ministry and least costly to the client. Each item is described further in the following section.

1. Finding a market for the material.
 2. Utilizing the wood residue under the exemptions in Section 6(3)(3.1-6.1) of the Waste Discharge Regulation.
 3. Applying for a minor amendment of an existing wood waste landfill permit.
 4. Applying for a new landfill authorization under the Code of Practice for Industrial Non-Hazardous Waste Landfills Incidental to the Wood Processing Industry. Consideration of open burning of wood waste prior to landfilling may be given for remote locations.
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1. The Ministry encourages the use of wood waste, and recognizes that finding a market for the material brings both environmental and economic benefits. The Ministry promotes creativity in finding possible markets. Existing markets for wood waste include:
 - a. Hog fuel
 - b. Waste to energy plants
 - c. Pellet plants
 - d. Compost
 - e. Garden and/or trail mulch
 - f. Foundation material for animal bedding
 - g. Foundation material in sport areas

2. With respect to the potential use of the wood waste generated at the sort and from within the landfill, Section 6(3)(3.1-6.1) of the Waste Discharge Regulation outline operations of wood waste use that are exempt from the *Environmental Management Act*. These sections are listed below:

(3.1) In subsections (4), (5), (6) and (6.1), "**industrial wood residue**" does not include the residue of wood treated with glue, paint, a preservative or another substance harmful to plants or animals.

(4) The use of industrial wood residue for foundation material at construction sites is exempt from section 6 (2) and 6 (3) of the Act if the material is applied under the direction of a professional engineer.

(5) The use of industrial wood residue

- (a) as plant mulch or in residential gardens,
- (b) as foundation material for animal bedding, and
- (c) in sports areas

is exempt from section 6 (2) and 6 (3) of the Act.

(6) The use of industrial wood residue as a soil conditioner or ground cover in non-agricultural operations is exempt from section 6 (2) and 6 (3) of the Act if

- (a) less than 100 m³/year is spread on a single property, and
- (b) it is applied in accordance with good agronomic practices.

(6.1) The limitation in subsection (6) (a) does not apply if the industrial wood residue is applied as a soil conditioner or ground cover to land used for forestry.

Using wood waste under the above listed criteria does not require notification to the Ministry of Environment. However, if it is being applied as a soil conditioner or ground cover in non-agricultural operations or to forested land, it does require that the application of wood waste to land be conducted with good agronomic practices. The expectation would be that a qualified professional oversee the application and sign off on the plan. If Ministry officials choose to come to the site, the signed off plan could be asked for. It is important to note that the use of wood waste as a soil conditioner or ground cover to land used by forestry should result in a benefit to the soil and forest, such that it would be an improvement to the overall health of the forest.

3. To dispose of wood waste in another existing authorized wood waste landfill, the discharger would need to, not only obtain permission from the permit holder, but the permit would require a minor amendment to add that waste source and location from which the discharge originates and possibly the new discharger to the authorization. There is an amendment fee of \$200. It will also be necessary to consider potential transfer or sharing of liabilities associated with more than one company utilizing the same waste discharge location.
4. Landfilling of wood waste at new sites or significantly amended existing sites requires registration under the Code of Practice for Industrial Non-Hazardous Waste Landfills Incidental to the Wood Processing Industry. The Code of Practice, registration form, and guidance document can be accessed at the link below:
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/codes/industrial_land/index.htm
To make application under the Wood waste Landfills Code a substantial amount of work by qualified professionals will be required (four plans are required with the application) and there is often difficulty in finding a suitable locations on the West Coast. There are many costs associated with operating, maintaining and monitoring a landfill over its life as well as the costs of closing a landfill , including, but not limited to hiring a qualified professional to design the final closure plan, capping the landfill with a suitable material and monitoring. Security is also a requirement under the Code.
 - a. Consideration of open burning of wood waste prior to landfilling may be given in remote locations. In order to burn wood waste from the dryland sort, an application for authorization from the Ministry in the form of a permit must be made. Information on the permit process can be found on the MOE website: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/waste_discharge_auth/index.htm. The Ministry encourages pursuit of alternative options for dealing with wood debris prior to considering burning.

For further information or inquiries in:

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