

LAND

Wood Chip Guidance Fact Sheet

No permit or approved plan is required by the DEQ if wood chips are applied no thicker than 6 inches when used as a soil amendment, mulch for flowerbeds/gardens or to construct walking trails. Municipalities may use the chips themselves or may make the chips available to its citizens. Chips should only be used where they will not wash off to neighboring property or the waters of the state.

Chips may be applied thicker than 6 inches when used to reclaim land damaged by strip mines, salt scars, erosion or mismanagement. When chips are applied thicker than 6 inches, a beneficial reuse plan must be submitted to the DEQ and reviewed by the ECLS division and approved by the Land Protection Division. The plan must include the following information:

- Legal description of site
- Site plan showing:
 - 100-year flood plain
 - Contours
 - Water wells
 - Property lines
 - Distance to water bodies
 - Distance to residences
- Describe the reason why the land needs remediation or what benefit will be achieved
- Describe how the chips will be used (amounts, application thickness and frequency, any other amendments added to the chips) Any addition of animal waste to the wood chips falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture
- Describe methods that will be used to prevent erosion or migration of chips offsite



Guidelines for beneficial reuse:

- Slope maximum - shall not be placed on slopes greater than 5 percent
- Proximity to water- shall not be placed closer than 100 feet to a surface water body.
- Thickness - 2 feet maximum thickness
- Spreading frequency - must be spread to 2 feet maximum thickness within 30 days
- Flood plain restriction - may not be placed within the 100-year flood plain
- Proximity to residences - must be at least 200 feet from an occupied residence.
- Water Wells – wood chips shall be at least 50 feet from private wells and 300 from public water wells.
- Property Lines- shall maintain a 20 feet separation from property lines.



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