

Wood Chip Guidance

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 and gardens or to construct walking trails. Municipalities may use the chips themselves or may make the chips available to their 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 Department of Environmental Quality. Start the process by contacting the Land Protection Division at (405) 702-5100. For site location assistance for your beneficial reuse project, please contact Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division at (405) 702-6100.

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.



Wood chip placement guidelines for beneficial reuse:

- Slope – do not place on slopes greater than five percent.
- Proximity to water – do not place closer than 100 feet to a surface water body.
- Thickness – do not place with a thickness more than two feet.
- Spreading frequency – spread to two feet maximum thickness within 30 days.
- Flood plain restriction – do not place within the 100-year flood plain.
- Proximity to residences – do not place less than 200 feet from an occupied residence.
- Water Wells – do not place less than 50 feet from private wells or 300 from public water wells.
- Property Lines – do not place less than 20 feet from property lines