



County of San Diego
Watershed Protection Program

QUICK GUIDE



To Composting and Manure Management

Why Compost Manure?

Every horse owner knows that a horse can produce a verifiably large amount of manure each day (average is 50 pounds daily!). Just as managing sewage in urban areas is key to human health, managing manure is important to horse health.

Two common manure management practices include applying it directly to the landscape or having it hauled away. However, with a little time and energy, the manure can be turned into wonderfully useful product that can enrich any garden or landscape.



The benefits of composting horse manure include:

- Eliminating the breeding ground for flies.
- Killing harmful parasites (including worm eggs), bacteria, and weed seeds.
- Reducing the volume of raw material by half.
- Eliminating foul odors.
- Being relatively inexpensive and simple to do.
- Creating a final product that is an outstanding soil amendment and mulch that can be used in gardens, pastures, and the landscape.
- Reducing the possibility of contaminated runoff leaving the horse property.
- Making your property more attractive to your neighbors by eliminating unpleasant odors and pesky flies.

The tips on the back will help get your manure working for you and your garden!

Six Suggestions for Successful Composting

1. Bins

- One 5' x 5' x 5' bin per horse.
- If manure fills up more than six bins, you may want to consider a windrow composting system.

2. Covering

- Make sure and cover your pile to help retain moisture, and to avoid runoff contamination during rain.

3. Pile

- A pile size of at least 4' x 4' x 4' is best to achieve composting temperatures.
- Base width of the pile should be twice its height.

4. Site

- Place pile(s) at least 150 feet away from drainages, ponds, and wells.
- Create and keep up buffer areas.
- Pile on top of compacted soil, in large bins, or on a concrete or asphalt pad.

5. Turning

- To avoid disease problems and keep temperatures up, piles should be turned about once per week.

6. Watering

- Compost should be kept as damp as a wrung-out sponge.
- No runoff should leave the area.

County Regulations that Protect Your Health, Water, and Land	Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The County's Watershed Protection Ordinance requires that manure be cleaned up at least twice a week and composted or stored in a manner that prevents its contact with water sources and runoff prior to disposal.• Composting of horse manure is allowed in San Diego County as an accessory use for residential horse owners.• Homeowners can use finished compost on-site or give it away, but cannot sell it. <p>For more information on regulations, contact the County's Department of Planning and Land Use at:</p> <p>(858) 694-2960</p>	<p>County of San Diego Recycling</p> <p>www.RepairSD.org</p> <p>or call</p> <p>1-877-R-1-EARTH (1-877-713-2784)</p> <p>Solana Center for Environmental Innovation</p> <p>https://www.solanacenter.org</p> <p>or call</p> <p>(760) 436-4986 ex. 700</p> <p> </p>

***Thank you for doing
your part to protect
our waterways.***

**County of San Diego
Watershed Protection Program
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