



Otay Landfill Compost Process

This is a 3-phase, 8-week process, also known as a cover-aerated static pile (CASP).

Preparation

- ▶ Commingled food and yard waste are dumped together in a segregated area and sifted through to remove contamination such as metals, plastics, wrappers, etc.
- ▶ After the initial contamination process, the remaining contents are sent through a grinder to incorporate organic matter and food waste.



Phase 1

- ▶ The ground material is taken to the composting area to be formed into windrows and covered with GORE-TEX® material cover. Water is added to achieve 55-60% moisture content.
- ▶ The windrows are placed on a blower system to maintain an aerobic environment under the covers.
- ▶ Temperatures are maintained between 131 and 160 degrees for 3 days to remove pathogens.

Phase 2

- ▶ After 4 weeks, the phase 1 windrows are moved and turned into a new windrow.
- ▶ The material is checked for proper moisture and re-covered.
- ▶ The temperature is maintained between 140 and 160 degrees for an additional 2 weeks to continue the composting process.

Phase 3

- ▶ After 6 weeks, the GORE-TEX® cover is removed, and the phase 2 windrow is moved and turned into a new windrow.
- ▶ The new windrow is left to cure for 2 weeks with no covering.
- ▶ The material is then screened and separated into 3 piles:

Finished Product

- ▶ Compost (smaller than 3/8th inches in size).
 - ▶ Mulch (up to 2 inches in size).
 - ▶ Overs (material that is 2 inches or more in size).
- Compost is used for soil amendment. Mulch is used for water retention and beautification in gardening. Overs are used in the composting process and at the landfill to help mitigate storm water erosion at the site.

