

## 2.04 NATURAL WOOD WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY PERMITS

- *Question: Am I recycling natural wood waste, like tree stumps, brush or limbs?*

### Why do I need this approval?

The permit assures the proper management and recycling of natural wood wastes such as tree stumps, brush and limbs, root mats, logs, leaves, grass clippings, unadulterated wood wastes, and other natural vegetative materials that are generated when land is cleared for construction purposes. These facilities produce a variety of products including compost and mulch which may be sold to consumers. The permit is required for those persons who construct and operate natural wood waste recycling facilities. (A natural wood waste recycling facility DOES NOT include a collection or processing facility operated by a nonprofit or governmental organization located in the State, or single individual or business that provides recycling services solely for its employees or for its own recyclable materials generated on its own premises.) Since the conditions required for several types of natural wood waste recycling facilities are similar regardless of location, and have been regulated by almost identical permit provisions, the Department developed a general permit for these similar activities. This general permit authorizes operation of certain types of natural wood waste recycling activities within the State of Maryland. The general permit contains conditions and parameters applicable to the several similar natural wood waste recycling facilities covered under the general permit. The Department may exclude a particular facility from coverage under the general permit and require the applicant to submit a separate application for an individual Natural Wood Waste Recycling Permit pursuant to COMAR 26.04.09.04A(2)a.

### What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

STATE: Environment Article - §9-1701 and §9-1708;  
COMAR 26.04.09.

### What is the process to get this approval?

#### FOR INDIVIDUAL PERMITS

- 1) Submit 11 copies of a completed application with supporting information to the Department.
- 2) Within 30 days of submitting an application, the applicant is required to publish a notice of application submitted and opportunity for comment in a newspaper with general circulation in the county where the proposed facility is to be located.
- 3) The Department distributes copies of the application to state, local and federal agencies for review and comment and conducts an inspection of the proposed site.
- 4) Once the application is deemed technically complete and the review process is complete, the Department issues the permit.

#### FOR GENERAL PERMITS:

- 1) Submit to the Department the required Notice of Intent (NOI) and Emergency Preparedness Manual (EPM). Submission of a NOI signifies that the signatory party intends to be authorized to operate a natural wood waste recycling facility.
- 2) The Department reviews the NOI and EPM for completeness.
- 3) Authorization to operate a natural wood waste recycling facility under the general permit is effective in the date the Department acknowledges receipt of the NOI.

### Is this approval directly related or contingent on other approvals?

No

### Are there any other requirements?

Applicants for an individual natural wood waste recycling facility permit must submit a completed application and documentation regarding other environmental permitting requirements to the Department. Applicants will be responsible for all publication costs for public notices. Responsible parties desiring to operate under a general natural wood waste recycling facility permit may submit to the Department a NOI and an EPM prepared in accordance with the requirements of COMAR 26.04.09.07F. In some instances, the Water and Science Administration General Stormwater Permit (3.03) or Department of Natural Resources Management Permits may be required.

### How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

Type of Approval	Turnaround Time
Individual Permits	9 months
General Permits	60 days

### Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Maximum of five years

### How much will this approval cost?

No fee.

### Who do I contact with additional questions?

The Solid Waste Program Operations Division  
at 410-537-3315.

Related Link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/Pages/landpermits.aspx>