Yard Waste Composting Isolation Distances (feet)

According to Section 11521(4)(b)(i) and (ii), of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, registered composting sites must maintain certain isolation distances to property lines, residences, surface water, wells, and sensitive receptors. The following table contains these requirements.

	Facility in operation before December 1, 2007	Facility in operation after December 1, 2007
Property line	50	50
Residence	200	200
Surface water	100	100
Type I or IIA water supply well	NA	2,000
Type IIB or III water supply well	NA	800
Sensitive receptor	NA	500
Groundwater	NA	4

In most cases, you will want to physically measure the distance, but there are various local, state, and federal resources available that can help in identifying the locations that are trying to be protected by these regulations. Identify these distances on the site map that is to be submitted with the registration form so that it shows the composting operation has met the distance limitations.

- **50 feet from a property line:** Measure from the property line to the closest part of the composting operation. If you have a property survey or other land purchasing documents, that information may be useful in creating your site map.
- **200 feet from a residence:** Measure from the closest part of the composting operation to the nearest residence. If there is a detached garage, measure from the closest part of the composting operation to the structure where people live. If there is an attached garage, measure from the closest part of the composting operation to the part of the structure nearest the compost operation. If you have property survey or other land purchasing documents, that information may help. If the residence is not on your own property, obtain permission from the landowner before measuring. If you need help identifying who that landowner is or getting this measurement, contact your local clerk or building/zoning office.
- **100 feet from a body of surface water, including a lake, stream or wetland:** Surface water can be either natural or manmade ponds, impoundments, etc. For the purposes of this section, this distance does not apply to on-site retention basins used to manage storm water from the composting facility operations.

  Measure from the closest part of the composting operation to the lake or stream bank or the edge of the wetland. In some instances, it may be difficult to determine locations of wetlands. If you need assistance with determining wetland boundaries, see the Land and Water Management Division information at www.michigan.gov/deqwetlands. The posted wetland inventory maps are not intended to be used to determine the specific locations and jurisdictional boundaries of wetlands for regulatory purposes. Only an on-site evaluation performed by the DEQ in accordance with Part 303 can be used for jurisdictional determinations. The DEQ has a Wetland Identification Program to assist property owners with identifying the location of any wetlands on their property and whether the wetlands are regulated.

  There are different mapping software programs available on the Internet that identifies streams, drainage ditches, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies but they do not all provide the same information, may not be accurate, and may not identify all the surface water in the area. A good starting

point is the US Geological Survey topographic maps at https://store.usgs.gov/map-locator or call 1-888-ASK-USGS (275-8747).

- **2000 feet from a Type I or type IIA water supply well:** Contact the local health department for assistance. A Type I community water supply well provides year-round service to not less than 25 residents OR not less than 15 living units. Examples include municipalities, apartments, nursing homes, and mobile home parks. A Type II water supply is considered a noncommunity water supply and serves different groups of people. There a few Type IIA water supply wells in Michigan and these wells have an average daily maximum generation rate of 20,000 or greater gallons per day.
- **800 feet from a Type IIB or Type III water supply well:** Contact the local health department for assistance. A Type II B noncommunity water supply is a water system that has an average daily maximum generation rate of less than 20,000 gallons per day. They provide water for drinking or household purposes to 25 or more persons at least 60 days per year or have 15 or more service connections or serves not less than 25 of the SAME people for at least six months per year. A few examples are schools, restaurants, churches, campgrounds, industries and highway rest stops with their own water supply, hotels and restaurants (with less than 25 employees).

  A Type III well is any well not considered a Type I or Type II water supply; serves less than 25 people AND 15 connections, or operates for less than 60 days per year. Examples include small apartment complexes and condominiums, duplexes, and all others except a private residence well.
- **500 feet from sensitive receptors which include a church or other house of worship, hospital, nursing home, licensed day care center, or school other than a home school:** For all of these locations, you could check with the local planning agency for your area for assistance with identifying these locations. There are several software programs on the Internet that can provide this information like the EPA My Environment webpage at http://www3.epa.gov/enviro/myenviro/.

  Daycare facility operations are licensed with the Department of Human Services Licensing Unit at 517-241-2488. You can use the DHS Online License Lookups at www.michigan.gov/dhs "Doing Business with DHS" "Licensing" to find the following:
  - Adult Foster Care/Homes for the Aged Facilities
  - Child Care Centers and Homes
  - Child Welfare Licensed Facilities
  - Children's or Adult Camps
  - Licensed foster homes

  Nursing homes are licensed by the Department of Community Health (DCH) Bureau of Health Systems. You can search for nursing home locations through the Medicare website or call the DCH Bureau of Health Systems 517-241-2632.
- **4 feet above groundwater:** You could check with the local health department sanitarian and local well drillers for the average groundwater level in your area. If the site has an on-site septic system, that information may be available in those records. Another option is to dig a hole at least 5 feet deep during the spring after snowmelt and see if any water seeps into the hole. Avoid doing this on a rainy day or during dry seasons. The groundwater is normally at its highest level during this wet season.
- **100 year floodplain:** A floodplain means the land area that will be inundated by the overflow of water resulting from a 100-year flood (a flood which has a 1% chance of occurring any given year). Several resources have floodplain information available. Your local planning agency may have this information available or if your site is located in a community that is in the National Flood Insurance Program, there may be elevation data on the FEMA web site. Links to FEMA and an *Online Request for Floodplain Elevations* is available at www.michigan.gov/deqwater "Water Management" "Floodplain Management/National Flood Insurance" If you need further help, discuss your site conditions with the District Floodplain Engineering Staff in the Water Resources Division.