

MANURE DISPOSAL GUIDE



Adapted from Manure Disposal Guide. Joshua Monaghan . King Conservation District.
935 Powel Ave SW, Renton, WA 95960. http://www.kingcd.org/manure_disposal_factsheet.pdf

The Issue: As owners of horses and other farm animals find themselves on increasingly small pieces of acreage in today's highly urbanized society, the question of how to deal with the waste that the animals produce becomes an increasingly difficult one. Options available to animal owners on greater acreage in more rural areas are not available to the urban dweller. And while horse and other forms of farm animal waste do provide a good source of fertilizer, the animal's output often exceeds the landowner's need. When that happens, the waste becomes a management problem and a potential environmental threat.

Environmental Concerns: Improperly stored animal waste can enter the watershed via seepage and runoff. The sooner the waste is removed from the site, the less likely that it will have that opportunity. Herbivore waste that enters the water system, although not toxic, can contribute to several problems in rivers, lakes and Puget Sound: nitrogen loading, decreased oxygen, algae bloom, contamination of shellfish beds, and damage to fish habitat and food sources.

On Being a Good Neighbor: Horse ownership in an urban area holds with it an inherent responsibility to maintain your animals in such a way that they do not prove to be a nuisance to your neighbors. Animal waste that accumulates can contribute to fly problems and is also unsightly.

Proper Storage: Any waste that must be stored for an interim period prior to removal or collection should be handled in a responsible manner. If it is kept at ground level rather than in containment bins, a concrete floor and retaining half wall should be constructed that accomplishes two key objectives: 1) prevents seepage, and 2) provides a backdrop and solid surface for easy removal with a tractor or shovel. To prevent runoff the containment area should be covered. This can be accomplished through the use of plastic sheeting or by building a cover or roof.

Waste Disposal:

Where to?

- * Compost for your own use, while meeting composting regulations
- * Give away or sell to gardeners/ nurseries as compostable materials (this can be arranged through the Manure Exchange Program)
- * Transport to nurseries, topsoil companies or composting centers (consult phone book yellow pages, vast majority are receptive)
- * Locate dairy/ cattle farms for "#2 shavings" use

How?

The most practical/ cost effective method for hauling waste materials off your site will vary depending on resources available to you and the amount of material your animals are generating. Options include:

- * Dump truck
- * Dump trailer (pulled by truck)
- * Waste hauler's container
- * End user's pick-up