

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS
Texas

INSTALLATION OF IN-VESSEL COMPOSTER
(Number)

Code 316

1. SCOPE

The work shall consist of installation of an in-vessel composter. The construction of bins or litter storage barns is not included in this specification.

2. LOCATION

The composter shall be located a minimum of 150 ft from the nearest property line. The composter should be located outside the 100-year floodplain as indicated on the FEMA floodplain map. In absence of a floodplain map, the soils shall have flooding frequency class rating equal to "none".

The site shall provide adequate drainage away from the composter and associated operations.

Water supply equipped with a hose bib shall be available within 50 ft of the composter.

Electrical supply for the composter shall be available.

Covered storage for carbon sources and the composted material shall be available for use. If covered storage is not available, it shall be constructed concurrently with the in-vessel composter.

3. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UTILITIES

Utilities are defined to be overhead and underground power or communication lines, and pipelines. The contractor should conduct their own search and discovery for utilities in order to lessen or avoid potential damages. The owner/operator shall complete TX-ENG-80A, Utilities Inventory, during planning and return it to the NRCS representative. The owner/operator shall also ensure that TX-ENG-80B, Cooperator Confirmation of the One-Call Utility Safety System is completed and returned to the NRCS representative prior to layout or any ground disturbance.

4. COMPOSTER

In-vessel composters that have been reviewed by NRCS and are included in Technical Note No. 210-EEN-01 (dated July 2013) or more recent updates are approved for use (this document is located on the NRCS eDirectives website). Other in-vessel composters shall be approved by the State Conservation Engineer prior to installation.

5. SITE PREPARATION

The site where the in-vessel composter is located shall be level and on suitable soils. The site for the in-vessel composter shall consist of a concrete slab or gravel base compatible with soil type.

If using a concrete slab, it shall have a minimum additional 12' x 12' loading area and 12' x 12' exit area.

General specifications are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this specification, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [State Office](#) or visit the [electronic Field Office Technical Guide](#).

If using gravel: 1) A minimum 12' x 12' concrete pad shall be placed under the loading area; and 2) A minimum 12' x 12' concrete pad shall be placed under the exit area of the composter. Concrete areas shall be appropriate for loading by farm equipment.

Equipment footings shall be as specified by the manufacturer. In absence of manufacture recommendations or specifications, the equipment skids shall be protected from direct contact with the ground or wet conditions using railroad ties, concrete blocks, piles or similar supports. Frame support shall be provided below the end truss and below each set of rollers.

6. PROTECTION FROM ELEMENTS

The composter shall be protected from sun with a suitable shade structure approved by the field engineer.

7. ELECTRICAL WIRING, COMPONENTS AND PROTECTION

All electrical wiring shall be done by a licensed electrician or in accordance with Texas Laws. All components shall meet current National Electrical Code requirements for the location and environment.

Power supply should be appropriately placed and protected to reduce the potential for accidental contact from machinery and personnel. If the power supply is located in an area that is reasonably accessible by machinery, it shall be protected by bollards or other appropriate measures.

8. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

The following listed forms and drawings are attached and are part of these Construction Specifications:

- a. TX-ENG-80B, Cooperator Confirmation of the One-Call Utility Safety System
- b. O&M Plan
- c. Location Map
- d. Responsibilities For Conservation Systems Constructed with NRCS Technical Assistance Landowners.

Other applicable items.

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This construction specification, attached construction details, and the requirement for completion of a TX-ENG-80B have been reviewed with me and I agree to install this practice according to these construction specifications.

Owner/ Operator **Date**