



# Wellesley

## MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley Town Offices  
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## CHAPTER VIII

### RESIDENTIAL COMPOSTING

1.00 Composting is permitted provided it is done in accordance with current standards and accomplished in such a manner so as to constitute neither a nuisance nor a threat to public health.

1.01 The compost pile must be a minimum of one cubic foot in volume and no higher than five (5) feet so as to hold sufficient heat for the process. It must be contained by a suitable fence or collected in a holding bin.

1.02 The Director of Public Health shall monitor complaints relating to composting and shall judge whether a composting operation causes a threat to public health. If a composting operation is determined to constitute a threat or nuisance by the Director of Public Health the individual responsible for the operation shall discontinue its operation and remove it to the satisfaction of the Director. Removal must be completed within thirty (30) days of notification by the Director.

1.03 The compost pile must not create any form of nuisance and must be treated so as not to attract rodents or any other undesirable pests. Residential compost piles must be located at least 50 feet from any dwelling measured on a horizontal line. A written waiver may be obtained from an abutter and presented to the Director of Public Health to permit variance of these minimum distances. Any distance variance shall be valid for no more than six (6) month periods and may be renewed at the Director's discretion.

1.04 No meat, bones, fatty food wastes, animal wastes, or putrefactive material shall be composted.

1.05 Compost piles may not be located in a swale or in an area regularly subject to collecting rain water.

1.06 All rulings of the Director of Public Health may be appealed to the Wellesley Board of Health by filing a written request for a hearing before the Board.

a. Any hearing requested must be held within thirty (30) days after receipt of the written request.

1.07 Reserved.