

T26 – Treatment of kitchen waste in a wormery

What is the purpose of this exemption?

This exemption allows very small scale treatment of waste from kitchens using a wormery to produce a compost. The compost can be spread to land to provide benefit which could be in the form of adding nutrients or to improve the structure of the soil. The spreading is done under a separate exemption or permit.

What types of activities can I do?

Example activities include:

- You want to compost kitchen waste from your office canteen, along with a small amount of shredded cardboard, to provide a drier fibrous element.

Where can I carry out this activity?

This can be done at any place that can comply with the environmental controls listed below.

What can't I do?

You can't:

- treat wastes that are not listed in [What waste can be used under this exemption?](#)

What are the key limits?

You can treat **up to 6 tonnes** over any 12-month period.

What are the key conditions?

The treatment must result in a stable sanitised [vermicompost](#) that can be applied to land.

What else do I need to know?

Animal By-Products Regulations

If you are treating catering waste from premises handling meat or products of animal origin, you will need to comply with the:

- Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 in England
- Animal By-Products (Wales) Regulations 2006 in Wales.

Catering waste means 'all waste food including used cooking oil originating in restaurants, catering facilities and kitchens, including central kitchens and household kitchens'.

These wastes must be treated under an authorisation granted by Defra's Animal Health section. There are exceptions for cases such as schools, hospitals and prisons if the waste is both composted **and** used at those premises.

If you are not sure whether you require such an authorisation, please contact your local Animal Health Division office. Contact details can be found at: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/contacts/ahdo.htm

What waste can be used under this exemption?

The waste codes below are those listed in the List of Wastes (LoW) Regulations. You should read the guidance on the LoW to ensure that the waste type you want to treat fits within the waste code.

You need to make sure your waste falls within the LoW code and the written description in the table.

Further guidance on this can be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste/32140.aspx>

Codes	Waste types
200101	Paper and cardboard
200108	Biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste

The full text of the legislation can be found at:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi_9780111491423_en_1

Related exemptions

You can treat waste by aerobic composting under **T23 Aerobic composting and associated prior treatment**.

T25 allows you to treat waste by anaerobic digestion and burn the resultant biogas for energy recovery at premises not used for agriculture.

You can spread the compost you have produced under a **U10 exemption for spreading waste on agricultural land to confer benefit** or **U11 exemption for spreading waste on non-agricultural land to confer benefit**.

Registration of this exemption

You cannot register this exemption until **6 April 2010**. A link to the registration process is available on the following web page:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/116406.aspx>

Definitions

"catering waste" means 'all waste food including used cooking oil originating in restaurants, catering facilities and kitchens, including central kitchens and household kitchens'.

“vermicompost” (also called ‘worm compost’, vermicast, worm castings, worm humus or worm manure) is the end-product of the breakdown of organic matter by some species of earthworm. Vermicompost is a nutrient-rich, natural fertiliser and soil conditioner.

The full ‘**Glossary of terms**’ can be viewed [here](#).