



Bay Area Air District
Agricultural Waste & Wildfire Prevention Chipping Programs

Chipping Pile Guidelines

Pile(s) must be prepared per these Chipper Pile Guidelines or they will not be chipped, and the chipping contractor is required to leave the material on your property. Applicants must submit a **photograph(s)** of their prepared pile(s) prior to approval to confirm it complies with these requirements. For questions about these Guidelines, please call (415) 749-4600.

Material allowed in your piles:

- Freshly cut materials are preferred to old, dry material. Piles that have been in place for a long period of time (e.g., a year or more) may not be chipped by the contractor due to safety concerns.
- The chipper can process material up to a maximum of 8 inches in diameter.

Prohibited materials in qualifying chipper piles:

- No root balls or stumps.
- No rocks, dirt or mud.
- No POISON OAK or wild berry vines.
- No weeds, Scotch or French Broom or gorse.
- No plastics, nails, wires or any metal pieces.
- No construction-type wood such as fence posts or 2x4s or treated lumber.
- No rakings or piles of needles, leaves or grass.

(NOTE: In limited circumstances, piles containing prohibited materials may qualify for processing. Call the Air District for details at: (415) 749-4600.)

Stacking your piles:

- Do not make piles higher than 4 to 8 feet tall.
- Piles should be stacked loosely to give the contractor easy access to the pile.

Placement of piles:

Piles must be easily accessible to heavy equipment and placed on owner's property, off roadways and driveways, so that crews can work SAFELY without need for additional personnel, signage or road closure permits.

- Do not place piles where they might block roadways or access.
- Do not put piles within 10 feet of electrical power poles. The chipper and truck must be able to turn around to exit the site.
- Place piles within 5 feet of chipper access, preferably on the uphill side of the road or driveway.

Additional Guidelines:

- Hour limitations (i.e., the amount of time the chipper contractor may spend at any one property) may apply.
- You are responsible for following environmental regulations concerning vegetation removal. Contact state, local, or municipal agencies for information that may apply to your property. If you find a federally listed protected species on your property, you need to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (916) 414-6600 for technical assistance.

Agricultural Waste Chipping Program:

Materials to be chipped must be agricultural waste from one of the following three commercial agricultural operations, which must be pursued as a “gainful operation” (as defined by BAAQMD Regulation 5, Section 204):

- Orchard Pruning and Attrition - Periodic prunings and attrition losses from fruit trees (apple, cherry, olive, peach, apricot, etc.), nut trees (almonds, walnut, etc.), vineyards, and cane fruits (raspberry, blackberry, boysenberry, etc.);
- Crop Replacement - Material generated for the purpose of establishing an agricultural crop in a location that formally contained another type of agricultural crop (e.g., replace an orchard with a vineyard, or replace one variety of a crop with another variety of the same), or on previously uncultivated land (e.g., the clearing of natural vegetation on previously uncultivated land to establish a vineyard or orchard); or,
- Range Management - Material generated for the purpose of range management and grazing, including when necessary to maintain and continue the grazing of animals.

Wildfire Prevention Chipping Program:

Materials to be chipped must meet the requirements of one of the following three operations:

- Hazardous Material – Material removed for the purpose of the prevention or reduction of a fire or explosion hazard, including but not limited to, natural vegetation or other native growth cleared away to create or maintain a firebreak around any building or structure on a property;
- Forest Management – Material removed for the purpose of removing forest debris and for forest management. For the purposes of the Program, the term “forest” is defined as an area where the dominant vegetation form is described as a broadleaf deciduous, broadleaf evergreen, conifer, or mixed broadleaf-conifer forest; or
- Wildland Vegetation Management – Material or vegetation removed to achieve a specific natural resource management objective(s).