



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Sandbag Disposal

Remove sand from bags and properly dispose of the bags

Section NR 500.08 (2) exempts clean soil from the solid waste code requirements. Any disposal that involves removing the sand from the sandbags and properly disposing (landfilling, recycling, or reusing) of the bags and placing the sand in an area where fill placement is not prohibited by other DNR codes or stats. or any other codes or stats. would be exempt from DNR waste and materials management codes or stats. Some additional caution should be used because sand that came in contact with flood waters may contain more bacteria than normal soil. Placement in playgrounds, sandboxes, or other areas of direct human contact soon after placement should be avoided. Bacteria will dissipate with time and exposure to the elements. Sand could be stockpiled and used for winter road sand, fill, concrete or mortar sand, or other uses.

Disposal of full sandbags

Full biodegradable (jute, burlap, or other biodegradable) sandbags are exempt under NR 500.08 (2) and can be disposed of as stated above.

If the bags are plastic or non-degradable a one time disposal written approval from DNR would be needed prior to disposal at a place other than a municipal solid waste landfill or construction and demolition landfill. Another option would be to dispose of the full bags at a municipal solid waste landfill or a construction and demolition landfill. Please contact the landfill in advance to make sure they will accept the sandbags and to obtain cost estimates for disposal.

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/documents/faclists/WisLic_SWLandfills.pdf

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/documents/faclists/WisLic_SWLandfills_byCnty_withWaste.pdf

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/documents/faclists/CDLandfillsSmall_byFacName.pdf

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/documents/faclists/CDLandfillsIntermed_byFacName.pdf

Reuse of full sandbags

Full sandbags of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable material may be reused at other flood sites and may be reused to construct permanent earthen structures. It is best to avoid using the bags to build things that are inherently unstable or erodible. Also, if the sandbags would be re-used in or near a different water body, be aware that they may transfer invasive species or fish diseases. It is best not to move sandbags from one body of water to another. For more information, see http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/vhs/vhs_prevent.html and <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/species.asp?filterBy=Aquatic&filterVal=Y>. In these cases the bags are not considered a waste if they are reused in a legitimate project within a reasonable time and are not stockpiled for a long period of time prior to use.

There is a general presumption for the disposal methods listed above that the sandbags in question have not been contaminated with petroleum products, transformer oil, or other contaminants that would cause them to not to be considered exempt under NR 500.08(2). Information for disposal of sandbags known to be contaminated with petroleum products, transformer oils, or other regulated contaminants can be obtained by contacting a DNR solid waste contact for the county where you are located.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/newsearch/contactsearchext.aspx?exp=solid+waste+requirements>