



Biosolids Fact Sheet

What are Biosolids?

Biosolids are defined by the BC Ministry of Environment as stabilized products that are recovered at the end of the wastewater treatment process. Biosolids are derived from the biomass that is used in the wastewater biological treatment process to break down organic matter and nutrients. In a bioreactor, as the biomass grows to exceed the limit of necessary organisms required for the process, it is periodically separated, de-watered and stabilized. This is analogous to the settled-out yeast biomass in a fermenter after the liquid beer or wine is decanted off for consumption. The biomass is then dewatered from a liquid state into biosolids. Biosolids contain no human waste or septic sludge.

Manufacturing Compost from biosolids and forestry waste

Salish Soils receives Class A biosolids from BC Ministry of Environment approved and certified wastewater treatment plants operated on the Sunshine Coast including Bonnie Brook Industries, BC Ferries, Town of Gibson's, and District of Sechelt. Biosolids are received into a controlled environment building fitted with process water and air control. Similar to food waste, the biosolids are tipped onto a bed of grinded up forestry waste (hog) and covered and mixed thoroughly at a 5-parts hog to 1 part biosolids. The compost mixture is then added to the computer, process-controlled aeration bays wherein active composting commences.

Microorganisms degrade the organic material for 60 days of active composting where temperatures exceed 55 degrees Celsius to pasteurize and kill pathogens or weed seeds and with an additional 30 days of curing to establish fertility and microbial maturity. Finished compost is tested for pathogens and metals to satisfy requirements for the BC Ministry of Environment Organic Materials Recycling Regulations (OMRR) Class A compost. Salish Soils does not land apply any biosolids or biosolids growing media. Salish Soils does not require any special environmental approval such as an MOE Land Application Plan as its class A compost supersedes any regulation. Salish soils only sells BC MOE Class A compost. Compost manufactured from biosolids and forestry waste are sold to landscapers and home gardeners.