

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
 Water and Science Administration • Groundwater Discharge Permits Division
 1800 Washington Blvd. • Suite 455 • Baltimore Maryland 21230
 (410) 537-3778 • 1-800-633-6101 • <https://mde.maryland.gov>

Application for Exemption from a Groundwater Discharge Permit for the Land Application of Food Processing Wastewater

An 'Exemption' from a Maryland Department of Environment Groundwater Discharge Permit according to COMAR 26.08.02.09A(5) is conditional with managing and land applying wastewater in compliance with Maryland Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Regulations (Code of Maryland Regulations 'COMAR' 15.20.04 to 15.20.08). All information requested must be provided in order to qualify for an exemption. **Instructions are provided at the end of this form.**

SECTION I: Applicant Information			
(A) Business Name			
(B) Physical Address of Planned Food Processing Operation			
City	State	Zip Code	Phone Number
County	Latitude		Longitude
(C) Mailing Address (if different)			
City	State	Zip Code	Email Address
SECTION II: Food Processing Operation Information			
(D) Type of Food Processing Operation			
Is this an existing operation?		If Yes, when was the startup date?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
(E) Briefly describe your operation with emphasis on each process that generates wastewater:			
(F) Wastewater Volume Generated (gpd):		(G) How often is this wastewater generated:	
Average:		<input type="checkbox"/> Daily <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly	
Maximum:		<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
(H) If your operations will generate a solid/semi-solid byproduct, state what this byproduct is and how it will be managed:			

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SECTION III: Land Application of Food Processing Wastewater

(I) Amount of Land Available:

(J) Type of Vegetation:

(K) Amount of Land Needed:

(L) How will wastewater be land applied:

SECTION IV: Wastewater Storage:

(M) Estimated Holding Tank Size for 7 Days of Storage (in gallons):

(N) Do you have an existing holding tank? Yes No

If yes, please provide the capacity (in gallons): _____

(O) Wastewater Hauler: _____ Pumping Schedule: _____

SECTION V: Nutrient Management Plan:

(P) Are there active farming activities at the location of the planned food processing operation? Yes No

If yes, briefly describe the farming activities and sources of any nutrients that are land applied:

(R) Do you have a current and valid Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) for the farming activities? Yes No

Nutrient Management Plan Developer: _____ Certification #: _____

SECTION VI: Site Map and Wastewater Analysis

Site map included

Wastewater analysis included

NMP Included

SECTION VII: Certification

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND WILL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THE DOCUMENT:

“Requirements of an Operation Exempted from Obtaining a Discharge Permit for Land Applying Food Processing Wastewater.”

and

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION IS COMPLETE AND TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature

Date

Submit completed form to: ATTN: Groundwater Discharge Permits Division, Water and Science Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., STE-455, Baltimore, MD 21230

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INSTRUCTIONS

Section I: Applicant Information

- (A) Provide the legal name of the person, business or other entity.
- (B) Provide the physical address of the Planned Food Processing Operation
- (C) Provide the mailing address, if different from the physical address.
- (D) Provide the type of food processing operation that will generate wastewater (brewery, winery, creamery, animal slaughter operation, etc.)
- (E) Provide a description of your food processing operation. Include a thorough description of each process that generates wastewater.

SECTION II: Food Processing Operation Information

- (F) Provide the average and maximum amount of wastewater, in gallons per day (gpd), that your operation generates. If existing, provide the date that production started.
- (G) Indicate how often wastewater is generated.
- (H) Identify any solid/semi-solid byproduct that will be generated and how it will be managed (hailed away, composted onsite, etc.)

SECTION III: Land Application of Food Processing Wastewater

- (I) Provide the amount of land available for the land application of food processing wastewater generated onsite in square feet or acres. (Indicate which unit.)
- (J) Describe the type of vegetation to which the wastewater will be applied.
- (K) Provide an estimate of amount of land necessary to properly manage the wastewater (i.e. to ensure no ponding or runoff occurs).
- (L) Provide the method that will be used to land apply the wastewater.

SECTION IV: Wastewater Storage

Wastewater cannot be land applied when the soil is bare, saturated, snow covered or frozen. MDA regulations (COMAR 15.20.07) also *prohibit land application of wastewater during the winter*. Winter is defined in Maryland statewide as December 16 through February 28 of the following year. Wastewater storage is therefore required.

- (M) Provide an estimate of the volume of a holding tank needed to store 7 days of wastewater.
- (N) Indicate whether or not you have existing wastewater storage. If so, provide the capacity of the holding tank, in gallons.
- (O) Provide the name of the entity that will haul wastewater offsite for appropriate treatment and disposal and a pump-and-haul schedule. An exemption will not be granted to operations that cannot demonstrate the proper management of wastewater during the winter months.

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SECTION V: Nutrient Management Plan

- (P) Describe any ongoing farming activities and any sources of nutrients that are land applied (i.e. manure, chemical fertilizers, biosolids, etc.).
- (Q) Provide the name and certification number of the Nutrient Management Plan Developer, if applicable.

SECTION VI: Site Map and Wastewater Analysis

Please submit a map showing the location of the planned food processing operation and land application areas. This map should include streams, drinking water wells and septic systems.

A wastewater analysis of your process wastewater must be submitted in order to qualify for an exemption. Your wastewater analysis will be submitted to the State Chemist Office in order to determine if it meets the requirements for registration as a 'soil conditioner'. Your wastewater should be analyzed for the following constituents:

Ammonia (NH₃)
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)
Nitrite + Nitrate (NO₂ + NO₃)
Total Nitrogen (Total N)
Total Phosphorus (Total P)
Potassium (K)

If this is an existing operation or you are applying to renew your exemption, you must submit a copy of your Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

Section VII: Certification

An original signature and date is required in order to process the application. By signing this application, the applicant agrees that they will comply with the requirements listed in the supplemental document "*Requirements of an Operation Exempted from Obtaining a Discharge Permit for Land Applying Food Processing Wastewater.*"

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Send the completed application to **ATTN: Groundwater Discharge Permits Division, Water and Science Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., STE-455 Baltimore, MD 21230**. You must ensure that the form is completely filled out and the site map, wastewater analysis, and NMP (if applicable) is included with your application.

NOTE: You will be notified in writing of MDE's decision to grant a discharge permit exemption.

For questions on the application process, status of your application or information on other options for managing food process wastewater, please contact the Groundwater Discharge Permits Division at 410-537-3778 or tracy.rocca-weikart@maryland.gov or joseph.adia@maryland.gov.