



## How to pile slash for chipping operations

Chipping can be a highly effective method of slash disposal. A layer of chips a few inches deep spread across the ground poses relatively little fire hazard.

Chipping produces a neat appearance. The mulch holds soil moisture, covers exposed soil, and inhibits weed germination. Most of the labor is in dragging the material to the chipper and feeding it by hand. The material can also be piled first, so that the chipper can move from pile to pile. Chipping requires fairly level ground and good access, since most chippers are towed by a truck. Below are some basic tips to ensure a smooth operation.

- Only pile clean slash (ex: not created from tractors or blades pushed with dirt, only cut by chainsaws or other shears)
- Piles should not exceed waist height
- All butts of the slash need to be pointing in the same direction (ex: not jackstraw)
- Point the butts towards the main road
- Pile should be in straight rows
- If there is too much slash to keep rows at waist height, start another row directly behind. Keeping in mind that the butts are pointing in the same direction and towards to road.
- If material is too large, cut into pieces (ex: smaller trees need to be cut into manageable sizes, not to exceed 6" DBH, same with larger brush and branches)

### ***Rules on thinning***

Thinning is regulated by the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Before a thinning operation—whether commercial or precommercial—you must submit a Notification of Operations with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). ODF must receive the notification at least 15 days before activity begins. Under some circumstances, you may be required to submit a written plan.