

LAND

Landfills

A landfill is a site for the disposal of waste materials by burial. It is a carefully designed structure built into or on top of the ground – a place where trash is isolated from the surrounding environment. The isolation is accomplished with a liner on the bottom, sides, and top. A daily covering must be applied such as soil or a tarp. In Oklahoma, landfills are regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality.



Most modern landfills are classified according to the type of waste material contained in them.

- Hazardous waste landfill – Waste disposal units are constructed to specific design criteria. These landfills are generally constructed to be secure repositories for material that presents a serious hazard to human health, such as



chemical waste. They are restricted, by permit or law, to the types of waste they may handle. These landfills must have a double liner system. There is only one hazardous waste landfill in Oklahoma. Clean Harbors Lone Mountain is located in Major County, south of Waynoka and west of Fairview.

- Municipal solid waste landfill – This type is also called modern, engineered or a secure landfill. This type of landfill usually has physical barriers such as liners and leachate collection systems (leachate is waste water created when water percolates through the waste) and procedures to protect the public from exposure to the disposed wastes. Waste has to be covered daily.

Site Construction Requirements

A landfill must be constructed in accordance with specific requirements, which are related to:

- Location
- Capacity
- Costs
- Stability
- Protection of soil and water

When a landfill closes, the site, especially the ground water, must be monitored and maintained for at least 30 years.

For a list of permitted solid waste facilities or for more information on landfills, visit the Land Protection Division's Web page at www.deq.state.ok.us or call (405) 702-5100.