

# Undercover storage requirements for waste/recycling depots

Update September 2010

*EPA 845/10: This information sheet has been prepared for waste management and resource recovery facilities licensed by the Environment Protection Authority on waste receipt and storage requirements.*

## Introduction

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Zero Waste South Australia (ZWSA) are continuing to promote modern best practice within the waste and resource recovery industry. Modern best practice seeks to maximise the amount of materials recovered via resource recovery, while minimising the generation of waste requiring disposal along with its adverse impact on the environment.

*South Australia's Strategic Plan 2007*, seeks to reduce waste to landfill by 25% by 2014. SA's *Waste Strategy 2005–2010* provides a blueprint towards achieving the outcomes and targets for waste reduction outlined in the Strategic Plan. The Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 provides a regulatory mechanism for the achievement of the reduction targets.

## Outcomes

Since 2002, the EPA has maintained the position that modern best practices for waste management are undertaken in enclosed and undercover facilities. The EPA requires all non-inert waste streams to be stored and processed in an enclosed undercover facility. This helps to maximise resource recovery and act as a mitigation measure against leachate and potential contamination of surface and underground waters. Waste types not requiring undercover facilities include Waste Fill, Inert Waste, Construction and Demolition Waste (Inert), Ferrous and Non-ferrous Metals, Green Waste and Waste Tyres.

All new waste or recycling depots are required to provide purpose-built undercover facilities for resource recovery and waste transfer operations. Existing metropolitan facilities are required to provide a similar level of infrastructure to mitigate potential environmental harm from waste management activities. Existing regional facilities will be required to provide either undercover facilities or provide waste receipt bins that must include covers. The EPA is progressively amending licence conditions for existing licensed facilities upon renewal and will incorporate an

implementation timeframe—to comply with the undercover storage requirement—typically 12 months from renewal.

Please note that ZWSA has a number of programs that provide funding for infrastructure such as recycling and reprocessing systems in metropolitan and regional South Australia, litter prevention, waste reduction in schools and research, development and education. See its website for more information <[www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au](http://www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au)>.

## Discussion

The Waste Hierarchy is one of the guiding principles of SA's Waste Strategy and the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010. The hierarchy is a nationally and internationally accepted guide to prioritising waste management practices to achieve the optimal environmental outcome. Avoidance of waste is the highest point on the hierarchy and the most preferred option for waste management practices.



Figure 1 Waste Hierarchy

EPA Guideline, *Resource Recovery and Waste Transfer Depots (2001)*, requires waste storage areas to be covered or roofed to prevent stormwater mixing with waste and producing leachate.

The prevention of leachate is the preferred option of the hierarchy. A number of benefits are created through the prevention of leachate, including:

- 1 efficient management of resources (eg time, equipment and effort) to manage the leachate
- 2 avoiding the cost of disposal
- 3 minimising hazard and business risk by preventing the potential for emission into the environment at any stage of a leachate's life cycle.

## Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. This publication seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way. In doing so, however, some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that you seek information from the EPA itself regarding your possible obligations and, where appropriate, that you seek your own legal advice.

## Further information

### **Legislation**

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: <[www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au)>

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet  
Adelaide Service SA Centre  
108 North Terrace  
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24  
Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909  
Website: <[shop.service.sa.gov.au](http://shop.service.sa.gov.au)>

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## Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&amp;I)</b>	<p><b>Commercial and Industrial Waste (General)</b> The solid component of the waste stream arising from commercial, industrial, government, public or domestic premises (not collected as Municipal Solid Waste), but does not contain Listed Waste, Hazardous Waste or Radioactive Waste.</p> <p><b>Commercial and Industrial Waste (Listed)</b> The solid component of the waste stream arising from commercial, industrial, government, public or domestic premises (not collected as Municipal Solid Waste), that contains or consists of Listed Waste.</p>
<b>Construction and Demolition Waste (C&amp;D)</b>	<p><b>Construction and Demolition Waste (Inert)</b> The solid inert component of the waste stream arising from the construction, demolition or refurbishment of buildings or infrastructure but does not contain Municipal Solid Waste, Commercial and Industrial Waste (General), Listed Waste, Hazardous Waste or Radioactive Waste.</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> <i>C&amp;D waste (Inert) should be such that the entire composition of the C&amp;D materials is Inert Waste with no contamination by foreign material. As such it is acknowledged that—with the aim of no contamination—there may be some negligible components of foreign material contained in the waste (as a guide, 0–5% maximum by volume per load). C&amp;D waste (Inert) includes bricks, concrete, tiles and ceramics, steel and inert soils.</i> <i>Foreign material includes green waste, plastics, electrical wiring, timber, paper, insulation, tins, packaging and other waste associated with construction or demolition of a building or other infrastructure. Foreign material must not be Municipal Solid Waste, Liquid, Listed, Hazardous or Radioactive Waste.</i></p> <p><b>Construction and Demolition Waste (Mixed)</b> The solid component of waste stream arising from the construction, demolition or refurbishment of buildings or infrastructure which contains some foreign material (as set out below), but does not contain Municipal Solid Waste, Commercial and Industrial Waste (General), Listed Waste, Hazardous Waste or Radioactive Waste.</p> <p><i>Notes:</i> <i>C&amp;D Waste is considered C&amp;D Waste (Mixed) if it contains significant foreign materials from construction and demolition activities that would render the load of waste no longer inert (as a guide, 5–25% maximum by volume per load).</i> <i>Foreign material includes green waste, plastics, electrical wiring, timber, paper, insulation, tins, packaging and other waste associated with construction or demolition of a building or other infrastructure. Foreign material must not be Municipal Solid Waste, Liquid, Listed, Hazardous or Radioactive Waste.</i></p> <p><i>Where waste from construction and demolition sites contains predominantly foreign materials or domestic waste, such as waste from household clean-ups collected by commercial skip bins, this is defined as Commercial and Industrial Waste (General).</i></p>

Term	Definition
<b>E-waste</b>	<p>Waste electrical and electronic equipment that is dependent on electric currents or electromagnetic fields in order to function (including all components, subassemblies and consumables which are part of the original equipment at the time of discarding). For example e-waste may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a Consumer/entertainment electronics (eg televisions, DVD players and tuners)</li> <li>b Devices of office, information and communications technology (eg computers, telephones and mobile phones)</li> <li>c Household appliances (eg fridges, washing machines and microwaves)</li> <li>d Lighting devices (eg desk lamps)</li> <li>e Power tools (eg power drills) with the exclusion of stationary industrial devices</li> <li>f Devices used for sport and leisure including toys (eg fitness machines and remote control cars).</li> </ul>
<b>Green Waste</b>	<p>The vegetative portion of the waste stream including waste from domestic and commercial premises and municipal operations.</p>
<b>Inert Waste</b>	<p>Solid waste that has no active chemical or biological properties. These wastes do not undergo environmentally significant physical, chemical or biological transformation and have negligible potential to cause environmental harm.</p>
<b>Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)</b>	<p><b>Municipal Solid Waste—Domestic sources</b></p> <p>The solid component of the waste stream arising from domestic premises that is received directly from the public, it is not received as Municipal Solid Waste - Kerbside bin collection.</p> <p><b>Municipal Solid Waste—Hard Waste</b></p> <p>The solid component of the waste stream arising from domestic premises which is not suitable for collection using a kerbside bin system, but does not contain Commercial and Industrial Waste (General), Listed Waste, Hazardous Waste, Radioactive Waste or waste that is not deemed suitable for collection by local councils.</p> <p><i>Note: MSW (Hard Waste) is typically collected in campaigns by local councils, which also advise on what wastes are suitable for that collection.</i></p> <p><b>Municipal Solid Waste—Kerbside Bin Collection</b></p> <p>The solid component of the waste stream arising from mainly domestic but also commercial, industrial, government and public premises including waste from council operations, services and facilities that is collected by or on behalf of the council via kerbside collection, but does not contain Commercial and Industrial Waste (General), Listed Waste, Hazardous Waste or Radioactive Waste.</p>

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Term	Definition
<b>Waste Fill</b>	<p>As defined in the Environment Protection (Fees and Levy) Regulations 1994 waste fill means: waste consisting of clay, concrete, rock, sand, soil or other inert mineralogical matter in pieces not exceeding 100 mm in length and containing chemical substances in concentrations (calculated in a manner determined by the Authority) less than the concentrations for those substances set out in Schedule 6 but does not include waste consisting of or containing asbestos or bitumen.</p> <p><i>The Waste Fill chemical criteria are specified in Schedule 6 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2009 &lt;<a href="http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au">www.legislation.sa.gov.au</a>&gt;.</i></p>

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