

Drum Disposal Protocol For Municipal Landfill

Commercial and institutional supplies, as well as fuel, arrive in the north in drums or in bulk containers. Most containers are recyclable but rising fuel and transport cost generally means that unwanted drums or unusable tanks are taken to the local landfill for disposal.

Landfills in the NWT are not designed to receive liquid waste. Precipitation in the form of rain and snow do dissolve waste and create leachate which percolates down through the soils. If chemical or fuel residues have been deposited in the landfill surface and ground water could become contaminated.

The attached guide provides the requirements for acceptance of drums and tanks at municipal landfill. The municipal authority must also provide approval prior to landfill disposal.

All large containers and tanks that previously held Dangerous Goods are required to be emptied and cleaned prior to landfill disposal or returned to manufacturers or recyclers. These containers are hazardous and must be handled accordingly.

The *NWT Environmental Protection Act* prohibits the release of contaminants into the environment. Liquids are not allowed into landfills in the NWT.

Further information on landfill design and operation refer to the Guidelines for the Planning, Design, Operations and Maintenance of Modified Landfills in the NWT, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. This document is on the ENR website. For further information contact Environmental Protection Division at 873-7654 or visit their website at <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/eps/leg.htm>.

DRUM AND TANK CLEANING FOR MUNICIPAL DISPOSAL

Definitions:

Small container - containers with a liquid capacity of 205 litres or less

Large container - containers with a liquid capacity greater than 205 litres

Empty container - A small container that has been emptied, to the greatest extent possible, using regular handling procedures, but its contents shall not exceed 1% of the container's original capacity or 2 litres, whichever is less.

Small Containers

Small containers taken to landfill for disposal should be emptied to the greatest extent possible, using regular handling procedures. Containers that previously held dangerous goods should be crushed or be pierced to prevent reuse.

Barrels containing only rust and sediment shall be treated as empty containers.

Tanks and Large Containers

If approved for landfill disposal by municipal authorities, tanks and large containers that previously held Dangerous Goods must be cleaned to remove all residuals. Cleaning can be undertaken by contracting commercial cleaning companies to undertake one of the following procedures, solvent rinsing, steam cleaning or high pressure rinsing with appropriate cleaning agents.

The risings are hazardous waste and must be collected and managed according to their characteristics (i.e. flammable, corrosive, acidic, etc.). The Guideline for the General Management of Hazardous Waste in the NWT details the requirements for management of these wastes.

Petroleum product container rinsing may be acceptable for treatment at municipal or commercial landfills designed to treat hydrocarbon contaminated soils. These landfills generally operate on a fee for service basis.

For further information contact Environmental Protection Division, Environment and Natural Resources at 873-7654 or visit the website at

<http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/eps>.