

What's in a Landfill?

It may seem like a giant pile of dirt and trash, but a landfill is an engineering masterpiece. Each of our landfills is carefully designed to operate in an environmentally responsible way. Here are some of the most important elements of a working landfill.



Leachate

Leachate is the liquid that is generated as a landfill decomposes. It is important to keep leachate from reaching the groundwater supply to avoid potential contamination.



Landfill Liners

Carefully engineered liners are used to keep leachate away from groundwater.



Surface Water Monitoring

Basins are used to collect run-off water within a landfill. The extra water is stored and often used later for dust control. Snow melt or heavy rain water heading towards a landfill is diverted around it to protect the landfill.

Groundwater Monitoring

The groundwater is monitored regularly to make sure it has not been contaminated. One or more wells and pumps are strategically placed to take samples of the groundwater, which are then sent to a laboratory for testing.

Landfill Gas Monitoring

The area around a landfill is monitored to look for potential gas emitting from it. Probes are used around the perimeter to take air quality readings from underneath the ground. Workers also use a special tool that detects emissions from the landfill surface.

Daily Soil Coverings

The trash within each cell of a landfill is covered daily to prevent blowing litter, odors, and to keep out rodents and birds.

