

## 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 a cover layer such as soil or a tarp on top. 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.

There are four types of landfills located in Oklahoma.

- Hazardous waste landfill – These landfills are designed for disposal of material that presents a serious hazard to human health, such as chemical waste. These landfills must have a double liner system. There is only one hazardous waste landfill in Oklahoma - Clean Harbors Lone Mountain located in Major County, south of Waynoka and west of Fairview.
- Municipal solid waste landfill – These landfills are designed for disposal of packaging, plastics, food waste, and other household and commercial wastes.
- Construction and Demolition Landfill – These landfills are designed for the disposal of wastes from construction and demolition projects, wood waste, and yard waste.
- Non-hazardous Industrial Waste Landfill – These landfills are designed for disposal of non-hazardous wastes generated by a manufacturing or industrial process.

Modern landfills are designed and constructed with liners and leachate collection systems to prevent environmental contamination. Leachate is wastewater created when water percolates through the waste. Design requirements vary depending on the type of landfill.

### Site Construction Requirements

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

- Location
- 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 Solid Waste webpage at:

<https://www.deq.ok.gov/land-protection-division/waste-management/solid-waste/>  
or call (405) 702-5100.

