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Liquid Waste Restricted from Landfills

This guidance is intended to outline the restrictions of liquid waste in landfills through a few questions and answers.

Q. What is a liquid waste?

A. Liquid waste is any waste that contains free liquids, which will readily separate from the solid waste under ambient temperature and pressure. This is shown through application of the Paint Filter Test (method 9095), in which a representative sample of the waste is placed in a cone filter. The sample is timed and if any free liquid drips out of the filter over that time the sample fails the test and is considered to be a liquid waste.

Q. What are the restrictions for disposing of liquid wastes at a landfill?

A. Bulk or non-containerized liquids cannot be disposed in a solid waste landfill. This means any waste or special waste that contains free liquids is banned from permitted landfills unless:

- The waste is household waste (not septic waste); or
- The waste is leachate or gas condensate derived from the solid waste disposal area, and the solid waste disposal area is designed with a composite liner and leachate collection system.

Q. How can liquid waste be managed for disposal?

A. Liquid waste may be disposed in a municipal solid waste landfill by the following methods:

- The liquid waste is in a small container (similar in size to that normally found in a household);
- The liquid waste is in a container designed to hold liquids for use or personal consumption rather than bulk storage; or
- The liquid waste is a household waste (not septic waste).

Liquids or wet wastes that fail the Paint Filter Test may be mixed with soil or other dry wastes prior to disposal at the solid waste landfill. This process of bulk waste or “bulking” absorbs enough liquid to allow the whole to pass a paint filter test. Some landfills permitted in Nebraska are allowed to bulk on site, most are not. Please call ahead to your landfill to discuss options. Waste that has been bulked is weighed after bulking to assess tipping fees.

See also, Guidance Document “Disposal of Bulk-Quantities of Liquids in Household-Sized Containers” on the NDEE Home Page.

Note: Any liquid, containerized, or bulk waste, that is also a **special waste**, must be pre-approved by the Department of Environment and Energy before disposal. The solid waste landfill manager may set regulations addressing liquid wastes that are more stringent than State or Federal regulations.

RESOURCES:

- NDEE Home Page <http://dee.ne.gov/>

Contacts:

- NDEE Main Line (402) 471-2186
- NDEE Toll Free Number (877) 253-2603
- NDEE Waste Compliance Assistant (402) 471-8308
- Email questions to: NDEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov

NDEE Publications:

- NDEE Guidance Document – [Disposal of Bulk Quantities of Liquids in Household-Sized Containers](#)
Guidance is available on the NDEE Home Page under “Publications & Forms”
- [Title 132 – Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#)
Titles are available on the NDEE Home Page under “Laws/Regs & EQC”, “Rules & Regulations”

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