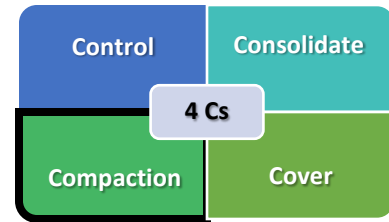


## 3.5 Compaction

*Compaction is the next step in waste management at the landfill. Compacting consolidated waste will extend the usable life of the landfill and help prevent many problems.*



### What is compaction?

Compaction is using pressure or force to reduce the overall volume of trash either prior to placing it in the landfill, with a garbage truck compactor or waste baler, or with heavy equipment after it is placed into the landfill.

### How to compact:

The heavy equipment, preferably a tracked vehicle, is driven back and forth across the waste approximately 4 to 6 times to crush the waste and reduce the volume prior to placing cover material. An excavator is often used to compact wastes in a trench using the bucket.

### Benefits of compaction:

- Increases the available volume of space
- Extends the life of the landfill
- Reduces leachate by minimizing the amount of water passing through the waste
- Reduces wildlife access to the waste
- Reduces windblown litter
- Reduces uneven settlement after the landfill closes, which may result in ponding and the need to regrade the landfill post-closure.

### Examples:



*Working face that has been compacted and covered.*