

3.10 Litter

Litter comes from windblown debris and improper disposal, and it can be a long-term repetitive issue if not controlled at the landfill. Litter must be controlled so that it does not become a nuisance or hazard. (18 AAC 60.233, 18 AAC 60.345)

Litter cleanup:

The best way to handle landfill litter is to prevent it in the first place. Consolidating waste and applying cover material regularly are the best long-term solutions in order to prevent litter. However, even with precautions, windblown waste becoming litter is a reality at most landfills, and regular litter clean-ups are a necessity for landfill operators. An annual community litter clean-up after spring breakup is a great practice, but ideally litter should be cleaned up year round. The operator should pick up litter or improperly disposed of waste in and around the facility at least monthly and dispose of it at the working face.

Helpful tips to prevent litter:

- Consolidate, compact, and cover waste frequently.
- Cover waste with 6 inches of compacted soil as needed, to reduce windblown litter and to keep the birds and animals from picking open trash bags.
- Bend the top wire of the landfill fence towards the inside of the landfill to help catch windblown litter, or use barbed wire angled towards the landfill to catch litter. The fence must be cleaned frequently to ensure that it is still able to catch litter and doesn't get blown over.
- Build a homemade moveable litter fence.
- If most of the windblown litter in the landfill ends up in the same area, consider installing another section of fence outside the landfill fence to catch any litter that escapes the landfill.
- Keep the landfill entrance clear and clean. If trash is dumped near the entrance, it has a higher chance of being spread outside of the landfill.
- Place a covered collection box near the landfill entrance for trash that arrives outside specified landfill hours. This will keep it in a centralized location and out of reach of birds and animals until the landfill operator arrives to take care of it.
- Promote the recycling of aluminum cans and plastic #1 and #2 bottles to reduce litter.



Sign reminding disposers to minimize litter by putting trash inside the landfill fence.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN RURAL ALASKA

- Pass local ordinances against plastic bags and littering to help prevent litter rather than spending time and money to clean it up.

Examples:



Homemade moveable litter fence near a trench.



No litter sign near a landfill.



A landfill with minimal litter at the site.