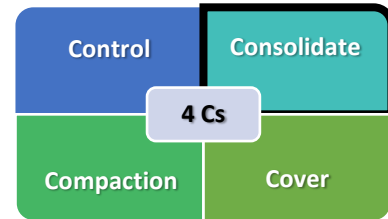


3.3 Working Face

The working face is the active part of the landfill where waste is placed for disposal. The working face must be kept as small as practicable. (18 AAC 60.345)



What is a working face?

The landfill working face is the area where sorted waste is placed for final compaction and permanent disposal. There can be different working faces across the landfill for different types of waste. For example, a landfill could have a working face for household waste and a working face for construction and demolition debris.

In an area fill landfill, the working face is located at the foot of the pile of waste that is waiting to be compacted and covered. In a trench-and-fill style landfill, the working face is located inside the trench.



Working face at an area fill.

The working face must be kept as small as possible. Ideally, the working face in an area fill shouldn't be any wider than 50 feet as this helps reduce litter and other issues with waste. A small working face also requires less cover material. In a trench-and-fill, the working face should be kept to one end of the trench and should be compacted and covered often.



Working face at a trench-and-fill landfill.

Part of the landfill operator's duties include creating and maintaining the working face. If a landfill doesn't have an operator, then everyone in the community must understand where to place the waste to create and maintain a working face. Often a sign that says "DUMP HERE" with an arrow is used to designate the working face. Otherwise, waste will be spread across the entire landfill site and the landfill will quickly become unmanageable.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN RURAL ALASKA

A small working face provides many benefits including:

- Minimizes the amount of waste that is in contact with rain, snow, or other potential water sources.
- Reduces operator time and equipment costs.
- Reduces the amount of windblown litter.
- Reduces the amount of cover material needed.
- More efficient compaction of the waste since the waste is managed in smaller sections.
- Keeps the landfill looking organized and well-maintained.

Examples:



Working face at an area fill landfill.



Trench-and-fill working face.