

Guidelines for Disposing of Flood Related Debris



1. Disposal of debris is the responsibility of the individuals or community where the debris was generated or found.
2. To the greatest extent possible, flood related debris should be managed in a fashion consistent with regular garbage:
 - Segregate recyclables (especially materials with a local outlet, such as beverage containers, tires, paint, electronics, etc.);
 - Separate out clean wood (both clean, un-painted or preserved demolition lumber, brush, trees, and dead fall, etc.);
 - Decaying garbage should be cleaned up and disposed quickly to prevent the attraction of uncontrollable pests, such as rodents, insects and larger animals; and
 - Dangerous goods, which have become waste, must be handled as hazardous waste and must only be disposed of in a landfill that is approved to dispose of hazardous waste.
3. Non-hazardous garbage, as well as construction and demolition waste from flooding or related cleanup operations, should be disposed of at an approved landfill or transfer station. Check with your municipality or the Ministry of Environment if you are uncertain as to the status of any landfill or transfer station that you intend to use for waste disposal.
4. Burning of waste materials is not permitted in landfills or transfer stations. Some landfill or transfer stations operations separate trees, brush and untreated and unpainted wood on the site. This material may be burned at the landfill site, with the prior approval of the Ministry of Environment. No other materials may be burned and must not be included in a burn pile at a landfill.
5. Hazardous and other materials, such as fuels, pesticides, fertilizers, propane tanks, motor oil, lubricants, etc., whether contaminated by flood waters or not, must be taken to a facility that is approved to accept this material (e.g. landfills with a permitted hazardous substance and waste dangerous goods storage facility [HSWDG]).

If the municipality already has a permitted HSWDG storage facility, then these materials should be placed there.

If there are no landfills or permanent HSWDG storage facilities available to accept this waste, it should be collected and temporarily stored in a secure location until proper arrangements for disposal can be made. Long term storage requires a permit from the Ministry of Environment.
6. Some waste materials, such as used motor oil, used tires, waste electronics or waste paint may be suitable for waste recycling. Collection sites for these materials exist across the province. Contact the Ministry of Environment or visit the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction web site at saskwastereduction.ca to find locations that accept materials for recycling.
7. Paper and packaging, which has been affected by flooding, is not typically suitable for recycling and should be disposed of with other waste at an approved landfill or temporarily stored at a transfer station for its further disposal.
8. Please observe any designated areas that are established at a landfill. For example, while metal may be disposed of at a landfill as part of normal debris, in some situations a landfill may have a separate designated area for larger metal objects. Other designated areas may include areas for disposal of dead animals, treated or spoiled grains, asbestos, shingles, compost and demolition materials. Check with the operator of the landfill or transfer station to learn what materials are accepted.
9. If access to the landfill is temporarily unavailable due to local flood conditions, the local municipal authority must provide alternate arrangements for the provision of waste disposal services. The municipality should consult with the Ministry of Environment to obtain a temporary permit for a municipal solid waste transfer station if other disposal options are not available.



Temporary Transfer Stations

1. Considerations for the creation of the temporary transfer station should include a minimum:
 - Length of temporary transfer station (6 months maximum);
 - Site selection (ease of access, natural provision of environmental security);
 - Temporary containment provisions;
 - Use of portable containers (portable disposal bins);
 - Site security (limitations on access to control “dumping”); and
 - Types of acceptable waste:
 - ~ General household garbage;
 - ~ Demolition waste – identify methods to store and dispose of problematic wastes including painted/treated lumber, drywall, shingles, aggregate, mud, etc.;
 - ~ “White” goods – appliances;
 - ~ Recyclables – to be separated from garbage to allow for future recovery (wet paper, cardboard and related products with little recycle potential should be treated as general garbage);
- ~ Hazardous recyclables – such as used motor oil, paint, etc., may require special storage considerations, such as secondary containment (temporary transfer stations should not accept waste dangerous goods unless these sites are under the supervision and control of a trained operator).
2. Contact the Ministry of Environment to notify them that a temporary transfer station will be created.
3. Arrangements should be made to dispose of high-volume wastes (such as clean wood waste) with waste disposal grounds that are already permitted to receive such materials for disposal.
4. Landfills that are permitted to normally receive special waste, such as dead livestock or spoiled grain and related commercial byproducts, may be temporarily overwhelmed by the quantity of these wastes requiring disposal. In these circumstances, the landfill operator should consult with the Ministry of Environment to establish what emergency measures may be employed to accommodate any such surge in disposal demand. Temporary modifications to existing waste disposal ground permits may be required.

Disposing of Sandbags

1. If sand is emptied from the sandbags, the sand cannot be disposed of in or near water bodies.
2. Sand from sandbags should not be disposed of in playgrounds or sandboxes where children may come in contact. The sand may have been contaminated with floodwater or sewage and may contain road salt depending on the source.
3. Sand from sandbags may be suitable for construction or landscaping purposes.
4. Empty sandbags should be handled like regular garbage and disposed of in an approved landfill.

More info?

Contact the Saskatchewan
Ministry of Environment
Inquiry Centre at
Tel: 1-800-567-4224
(toll-free in North America)
or 306-787-2584.
Email: centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca