

Landfill

What is a landfill?

A landfill is basically a hole in the ground where all our rubbish is dumped. And old landfills were just that - a hole in the ground.

Modern landfills are engineered to be like a container - they are lined to stop anything nasty leaking out and once full they are capped to stop anything else getting in.

Ideally, the only waste that would be sent to landfill would be waste that cannot be avoided, reused, recycled or repurposed.

Why send waste to landfill?

People send waste to landfill through their kerbside wheelie bin and through waste transfer stations because they no longer need it.

Waste is sent to the landfill to keep it away from populated areas because decaying waste produces a strong odour, which is not pleasant for people, and methane which is flammable

and needs to be controlled.

Help reduce waste to landfill

Reducing waste to landfill benefits the environment by reducing the risk of disease, the spread of pollutants and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It also helps to conserve the earth's natural resources.

Reduce your waste to landfill by:

- Reusing shopping bags
- Buying products with minimal or recyclable packaging
- Composting your kitchen scraps
- Repairing your electronic devices rather than replacing them
- Using your kerbside recycling bin properly - visit www.rethinkwaste.com.au for tips on what can and can't be recycled.

The impacts of landfill on the environment:

- Water contamination
- Litter
- Release of greenhouse gases
- Spread of disease by rats and flies
- Dust, odour and noise pollution

