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Sanitary Landfills

Sanitary landfills are engineered burial facilities for disposal of solid waste (Figure 51-12). They are located, designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that will contain the solid waste so it will not cause a present or potential hazard to public health or to the environment. Generally, most landfills are operated under the authority of a local government that controls what can or cannot be disposed of in the landfill. To minimize the environmental hazard, hazardous material is not allowed to be disposed of in a landfill. Because of the difficulty of siting and constructing new landfills, material that can be managed with alternative methods are oftentimes excluded to preserve space. Solid waste often banned for this reason includes large home or industrial appliances and tires.

In some areas, disposal of dead poultry and/or animals in a sanitary landfill is permitted. This may be one of the simpler methods of disposal if a landfill is near the livestock facility. Because not all landfills will accept dead animals, however, arrangements with the landfill operator should be made in advance. In addition, some states require special licenses to transport dead animals. Regardless, carcasses should be hauled in a leakproof, covered container and/or vehicle.

In summary, the sanitary landfill method of managing mortality has the following advantages and disadvantages (Table 51-8).

Table 51-8. Mortality management using sanitary landfills.

Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Simplicity	1. Nutrients contained in the dead animals are wasted.
2. No capital investment	2. Few landfills accept dead animals.
3. No maintenance	3. Transportation costs
	4. Not permitted in many areas



Figure 51-12. Sanitary landfill.