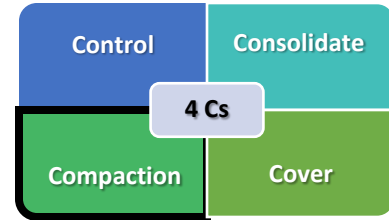


3.5 Compaction

Compaction is the next step in waste management at the landfill. Compacting consolidated waste will extend the usable life of the landfill and help prevent many problems.



What is compaction?

Compaction is using pressure or force to reduce the overall volume of trash either prior to placing it in the landfill, with a garbage truck compactor or waste baler, or with heavy equipment after it is placed into the landfill.

How to compact:

The heavy equipment, preferably a tracked vehicle, is driven back and forth across the waste approximately 4 to 6 times to crush the waste and reduce the volume prior to placing cover material. An excavator is often used to compact wastes in a trench using the bucket.

Benefits of compaction:

- Increases the available volume of space
- Extends the life of the landfill
- Reduces leachate by minimizing the amount of water passing through the waste
- Reduces wildlife access to the waste
- Reduces windblown litter
- Reduces uneven settlement after the landfill closes, which may result in ponding and the need to regrade the landfill post-closure.

Examples:



Working face that has been compacted and covered.