

5.7 Salvage Area

Salvage areas are not a required component of Class III landfills. If a salvage area is set up at the landfill, then be sure it is safe for the public and can be managed with current staffing hours. The salvage area must be limited to an area that does not hinder facility operation, create a safety hazard, or cause pollution. (18 AAC 60.220)

What you need to have a successful salvage area:

Plan

- Decide what will be accepted.
- Organize the space for the type of items accepted.
- Include the management strategy of the salvage area in the landfill operations plan.

Separate Area

- A salvage area should be separate from the active disposal areas.

Signs

- Signs to indicate where to put each type of item.

Where will the salvage area be located?

A salvage area can be located in a variety of places. It can be outside the landfill so people can salvage items even when the landfill is closed. Or it can be inside the landfill so the operator has more control over the area and can easily move items that no longer contain salvageable material to the active working face.



Salvage signs outlining acceptable items. Photo Credit: Peter Olson, Golovin Landfill Operator and Public Works Director

The ideal location of the salvage area at the landfill is dependent on how the community handles waste. If the community struggles with placing waste in the appropriate disposal area, then a salvage area inside the landfill may be the best option. If the community is good at self-regulating waste disposal, then a more accessible salvage area may be appropriate.

What salvageable materials will the landfill accept?

You need to consider what salvageable materials will be staged at the landfill. Only good, usable items should be accepted for salvage. Unsalvageable items or junk should be disposed of.

Examples of good, usable items include:

- Windows, doors, and other reusable building products and materials
- White goods and appliances for salvageable parts
- Furniture
- Tools
- Fishing gear
- Vehicles/parts

No matter what item is being accepted for salvage, the landfill should have a designated, safe, organized space for that item. Vehicles should be stored in a designated vehicle salvage area after the removal of fluids and batteries, white goods should be placed with other white goods, etc. Avoid mixing the different categories of salvageable material to avoid having an unmanageable salvage area.

Vehicles:

Vehicles (cars, trucks, ATVs, snowmachines, etc.) are the most commonly salvaged items. However, they require some special considerations prior to being placed in the salvage area. (See Vehicles section for more information)



Snowmachines staged for salvage.

Appliances:

Some appliances (refrigerators and freezers) require special considerations prior to being placed in the salvage area. Prior to accepting refrigerators or freezers for salvage (or disposal) the freon (CFCs) must be removed by a trained operator (See Freezers & Refrigerators & CFCs section).

Safety Tips

- Line up items on the ground so people don't have to climb a stack when salvaging parts.
- Adequate space should also be allotted between items so they can safely be accessed and maneuvered during salvaging.
- Hydraulics can fail! Don't rely on your heavy equipment hydraulics to hold up a vehicle while it is being processed.



Vehicles staged for salvage.

Things don't last forever:

Salvageable items don't last forever. Once an item has been damaged, weathered, deemed junk, or all of the useful parts have been salvaged, the item should be moved to the active disposal area, placed in the scrap metal pile, or staged in the appropriate backhaul area (if applicable).

Be sure to have a timeline for how long items will sit in the salvage area before being moved to the appropriate disposal or backhaul area.

Reuse store/household goods salvage area:

Household goods, electronics, and other small items are best staged in an enclosed dry area such as a shed or conex box. The area should also be organized and regularly cleaned out to ensure that nothing stays in the salvage area too long.

For more information on setting up an indoor reuse store or household good salvage area, contact your ADEC Rural Landfill Specialist.

Other helpful tips:

Salvage areas need to be maintained just like the rest of the landfill.

Before implementing a salvage area, make sure the landfill operator has time to manage it.

Salvage works best in landfills with an operator and restricted access.

Trash attracts trash: Keep the salvage area clean and organized.