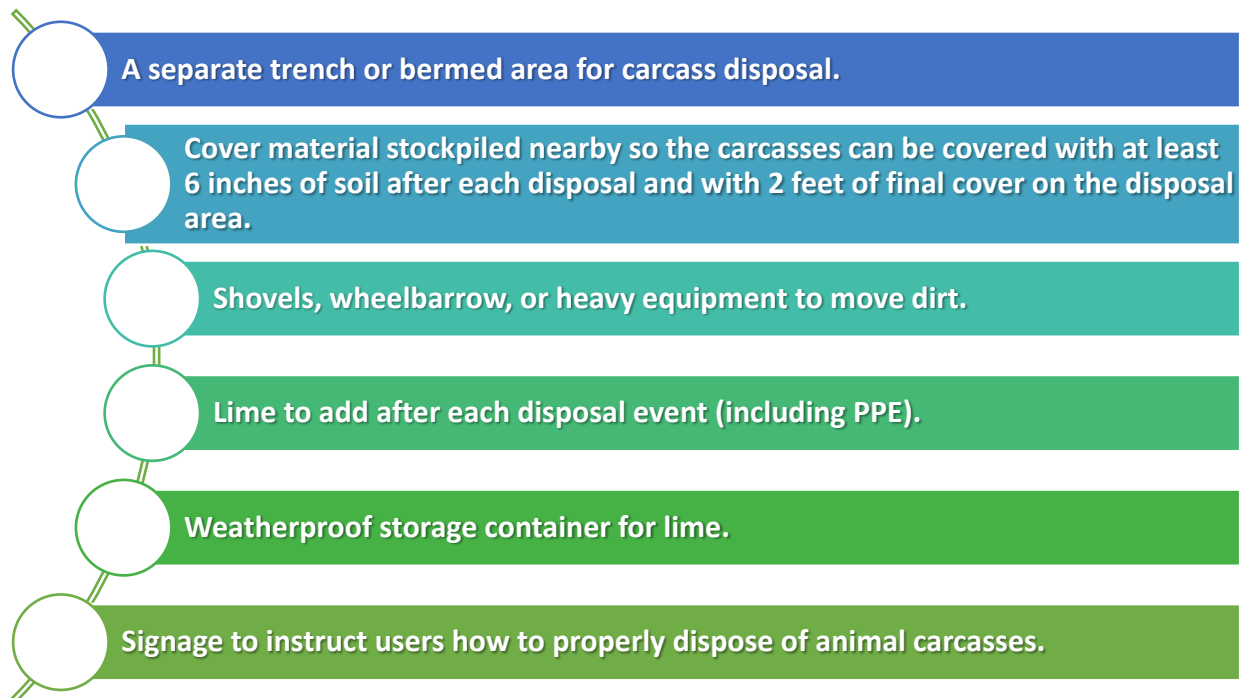


5.3 Animal Carcasses

Animal carcasses must be disposed of in a manner that does not cause an animal attraction and protects public health. (18 AAC 60.010)

Animal carcasses should never be disposed of in the same location as other waste or mixed with household trash, as this greatly increases the chances of germs from the animal carcasses being tracked back to the community by vehicles or people. For safety, it is best to place animal carcasses in a separate disposal trench or bermed area.

Requirements for good management of animal carcass disposal at the landfill:



Why are these items important?

- Dedicated trench or area: Reduces public contact with the waste and reduces the risk of carrying germs back to the community.
- Cover material: Putting at least 6 inches of cover material over the carcass limits scavenging (by birds, bears, foxes, dogs, etc.) and prevents flies from laying eggs in the carcasses.
- Lime: Lime is a powdered substance that reduces the smell associated with dead animals and helps the carcass decay faster.

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- Weatherproof container: In order for the lime to stay effective, it needs to remain dry before being applied to the carcass.
- Shovel: This is needed to apply cover and lime to the animal carcasses or subsistence wastes.
- Signage: Giving people directions for how and where to dispose of a carcass will reduce risk to landfill users. Signs can be written in the local language to help with understanding and compliance.



Properly signage at an animal carcass disposal pit.

Helpful Tips:

- If groundwater is near the surface in the region or a trench can't be dug, berms may be built to create an above ground carcass pit.
- A seasonal subsistence carcass trench or above ground bermed disposal area outside the landfill may be an option during hunting season. After hunting season is over, the area can be closed and covered with a minimum of 2 feet of soil.
- Heads, hides, and lower legs of carcasses also attract animals, so they should also be disposed of in the designated animal carcass disposal area.
- A dog cemetery can be established outside of the landfill or the dogs can be added to the designated carcass disposal area. However, the disposal must still be managed with lime and proper application of cover.
- Fish waste can be returned to the river or ocean rather than being disposed of at the landfill. Be sure to follow any guidance or regulations provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Field dressing the harvested animal is also an acceptable disposal option.



Animal carcass pit.

- A light dusting of lime is all that is needed to sanitize the carcass.
- Outreach and education play an important role in gaining acceptance by the public. Explaining why it is important to dispose of animal carcasses in the appropriate area may improve the public's willingness to dispose of carcasses properly.

Lime – Which one is the right one?

The correct type of lime to use in a carcass pit is a lime that sanitizes. The two types of lime that sanitize are calcium oxide (commonly called quicklime) and calcium hydroxide (also known as hydrated lime). Either of these lime types, when mixed with the moisture within the carcass, will generate a high pH (alkaline) solution. It is this high pH that kills microorganisms. Again, the correct forms of lime to use are *“quicklime”* or *“hydrated lime.”* Quicklime is the best, but it can be very expensive and difficult to obtain in Alaska, so hydrated lime may be the more practical option.

DO NOT USE calcium carbonate. This is another form of lime that will not sanitize and thus is not useful for a septic/honeybucket disposal pit. Another common form of lime that does not sanitize is Aglime (garden lime), which contains calcium carbonate and magnesium carbonate.

Where to purchase hydrated or quicklime?

Option #1	Option #2	Option #3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask a local store to order some.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask the local or regional corporation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Order online.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): When handling lime be sure to use any appropriate PPE recommended by the manufacturer. This often includes gloves, eye protection, and a mask to prevent inhalation.

Examples:



Above ground animal carcass disposal area.



Sign instructing people how to dispose of animal carcasses.