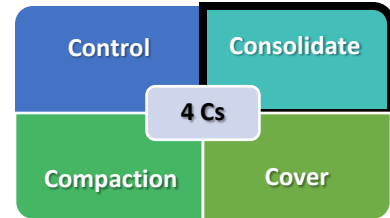


## 3.4 Consolidation

*Consolidation is one of the most important steps for managing a Class III landfill. Any landfill operator, whether they have heavy equipment or not, can consolidate waste with a little planning.*



### What is consolidation?

Waste consolidation is gathering similar wastes in a smaller designated space. The goal of consolidation is to reduce the working face to the smallest area possible.

The opposite of waste consolidation is having waste spread over the entire landfill site. This makes it difficult for users to safely dispose of waste and for operators to manage the waste. The best way to combat this issue is to control access to the landfill, keep a landfill operator on site during open hours, and use signage to direct users to the proper working face and storage areas.



*Trench-and-Fill landfill. All the waste is consolidated into one half of the trench. Notice that the waste is not spread across the site.*

### How to consolidate:

The operator should gather the waste and place it at the working face. The working face should be kept as small as possible with consolidation as needed. If the landfill allows users to dispose of their own waste, then steps should be taken (e.g. using signs and barriers) to ensure that the landfill users place their waste at the working face.

If you a landfill does not have heavy equipment, it becomes even more important to use signage, barriers, and education to ensure that landfill users dispose of waste in the correct areas. Regularly collecting litter and placing it in the working face will also help guide users to place their waste in the working face because they won't see waste scattered across the site.

The key to consolidation is to make sure the waste is placed in the right place and the working face is kept as small as possible.

### Why consolidate waste?

- Consolidating the waste cuts the overall operation costs for the landfill. A small pile of waste is cheaper to compact and cover.
  - A consolidated waste pile gets the most use out of a limited supply of cover material.

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- Consolidating the waste reduces the potential for litter, odor, and leachate.
- Consolidation decreased environmental risks and improves the function of the landfill.
- Contractors and the public are more likely to follow the rules in a clean landfill.

## Examples:



*Area fill landfill with the household waste consolidated behind the burn unit. The waste on the left side is construction and demolition debris.*





*Area fill landfill with two separate working faces demonstrating excellent consolidation. The household garbage working face is near where the cars are parked, allowing easy drop off by the public. The larger working face towards the back of the landfill is for metals.*