



# AEM Tier 2 Worksheet

## Waste Disposal

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### Glossary

**Compost:** Composting is a biological process in which microorganisms convert organic materials into a soil-like material called compost. As a method of dead animal disposal, a properly-sited and constructed compost pile offers an environmentally-sound and easily-managed way of handling this issue on farms.

**Licensed Landfill:** Refers to a landfill licensed for specific refuse referred to in questions.

**Secondary Containment:** A back-up containment area in the event of a leak or spill. For example, a structure with a concrete floor and curbs in which containers of a material are stored.

**Solvents:** A substance, usually a liquid, capable of dissolving or dispersing one or more substances.

**Waterbody:** A lake, reservoir, pond, river, continuously-flowing stream, continuously-flowing spring, wetland, estuary or bay.

**Watercourse:** Water flowing over a non-vegetated channel to a waterbody.

### Background

Numerous products such as pesticides, cleaners, solvents, oils, batteries, etc. are used on farms. Proper disposal of these items is necessary to ensure a clean and healthy drinking water supply. Improper disposal may be detrimental to surface and groundwater in addition to being illegal.

Under normal conditions, small amounts of oil, cleaners, etc. are sometimes spilled onto farm property. Proper disposal practices must be used to minimize the potential for surface and groundwater contamination. Most farmers are aware of the risks associated with pesticide use, but may be unfamiliar with the side effects of other chemicals used around the farm.

Proper disposal of waste products off the farm is necessary to ensure safe drinking water for your farmstead, as well as safe drinking water supplies for others.

### Agricultural Water Quality Principle:

Operators should take precautions to prevent chemical leaks and spills on the farm. Ensure that waste products which cannot be recycled, such as chemical containers, are properly disposed of off the farm.

<b>AEM Tier 2 Worksheet: Waste Disposal</b>		<b>Potential Concern</b>		
<b>Factors Needing Assessment:</b>	Lower 1	2	3	Higher 4
<b>How are dead animals disposed of?</b>	Picked up by rendering company within 48 hours after death. <b>OR</b> Properly composted on the farm.	Buried 6 ft. deep in appropriate soils. <b>AND</b> Buried more than 200 ft. from a waterbody, watercourse, well or spring.	Buried less than 6 ft. deep. <b>OR</b> Buried closer than 200 ft. from a waterbody, watercourse, well or spring.	Carcasses left outside for scavengers, or to decay.
<b>What is done with waste oil and grease?</b>	Stored in protected area on impervious surface with secondary containment until recycled.	Stored in protected area on impervious surface with secondary containment and reused on farm.		Disposed of on farm or stored indefinitely.
<b>What is done with used antifreeze?</b>	Saved and taken to an antifreeze recycling facility.	Taken to a licensed landfill or municipal incinerator.	Disposed of on farm away from well.	Dumped near water.
<b>How are plastic containers from oil products handled?</b>	Products are used up and containers recycled.	Empty containers are taken to a licensed landfill or municipal incinerator.		Empty or partially-filled containers are disposed of on the farm.
<b>What is done with old lead acid batteries?</b>	Exchanged when new batteries are purchased.			Disposal on farm.
<b>What is done with old farm tires?</b>	Re-used where possible. <b>OR</b> Taken to a recycling depot for retreading. <b>OR</b> Disposed of at a licensed landfill site.			Dumped or burned on farm.

## Other

1. How are pesticide containers disposed of? (See Pesticide Storage, Mixing and Loading Worksheet)
2. How are unwanted or banned pesticides disposed of? (See Pesticide Storage, Mixing, and Loading Worksheet)
3. Where does the shop drain outlet?
4. Are products such as veterinary/medical waste, fertilizer bags, plastic bale wrap/silage bags, and paints and solvents and a problem on the farm?
5. Is there a farm dump?  
Where is it located?  
What goes into it?
6. Is a burn barrel used on the farm?  
Where is it located?  
What is burned in it?

## Additional Comments