**Waste disposal**

**Waste disposal**, the collection, processing, and [recycling](https://www.britannica.com/science/recycling) or [deposition](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/deposition) of the waste materials of human society. Waste is classified by source and [composition](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/composition). Broadly speaking, waste materials are either liquid or solid in form, and their components may be either hazardous or inert in their effects on [health](https://www.britannica.com/topic/health) and the [environment](https://www.britannica.com/science/environment). The term *waste* is typically applied to solid waste, sewage (wastewater), hazardous waste, and [electronic waste](https://www.britannica.com/technology/electronic-waste).

In industrialized countries, municipal liquid waste is funneled through [sewage systems](https://www.britannica.com/technology/sewerage-system), where it undergoes wastewater treatment, or sewage treatment. This process removes most or all of the impurities from wastewater, or sewage, before they can reach groundwater [aquifers](https://www.britannica.com/science/aquifer) or surface waters such as [rivers](https://www.britannica.com/science/river), [lakes](https://www.britannica.com/science/lake), [estuaries](https://www.britannica.com/science/estuary), and [oceans](https://www.britannica.com/science/ocean).

[](https://cdn.britannica.com/05/154205-050-DEADC6AF/plants-water-waste.jpg)

**wastewater-treatment plant**Wastewater-treament plants remove chemical or biological waste from water. *© huimin/Fotolia*

Refuse, or municipal solid waste (MSW), is nonhazardous solid waste from a [community](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/community) that requires collection and transport to a processing or disposal site. Refuse includes garbage and rubbish. Garbage is mostly decomposable food waste, and rubbish is mostly dry material such as [glass](https://www.britannica.com/technology/glass), [paper](https://www.britannica.com/technology/paper), cloth, or [wood](https://www.britannica.com/science/wood-plant-tissue). Garbage is highly putrescible or decomposable, whereas rubbish is not. Trash is rubbish that includes bulky items such as old refrigerators, couches, large [tree](https://www.britannica.com/plant/tree) stumps, or [construction](https://www.britannica.com/technology/construction) and demolition waste (e.g., wood, [drywall](https://www.britannica.com/technology/drywall-construction), [bricks](https://www.britannica.com/technology/brick-building-material), concrete) all of which often require special collection and handling. Refuse is often deposited in [sanitary landfills](https://www.britannica.com/technology/sanitary-landfill)—that is, pits or other sites sealed with impermeable [synthetic](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/synthetic) bottom liners where waste is isolated from the rest of the [environment](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/environment).

[](https://cdn.britannica.com/02/154202-050-001D9E0A/Bulldozer-sanitary-landfill-waste-garbage.jpg)

Some forms of solid and liquid waste are classified as hazardous because they are harmful to human health and the environment. Hazardous wastes include materials that are [toxic](https://www.britannica.com/science/toxic-waste), reactive, ignitable, [corrosive](https://www.britannica.com/science/corrosion), [infectious](https://www.britannica.com/science/infectious-disease), or [radioactive](https://www.britannica.com/science/radioactive-isotope). Toxic waste is essentially chemical waste from industrial, chemical, or biological processes that can cause injury or death when it is either ingested or absorbed by the [skin](https://www.britannica.com/science/human-skin). Reactive wastes are chemically unstable and react violently or explosively with [air](https://www.britannica.com/science/air) or [water](https://www.britannica.com/science/water). Infectious wastes (such as used bandages, hypodermic needles, and other materials from medical and research facilities) are materials that may contain pathogens. Radioactive wastes (such as spent fuel rods containing [fissionable materials](https://www.britannica.com/technology/fissile-material) used in [nuclear power](https://www.britannica.com/technology/nuclear-power) generation and [isotopes](https://www.britannica.com/science/isotope) of [cobalt](https://www.britannica.com/science/cobalt-chemical-element) and [iodine](https://www.britannica.com/science/iodine) used in [cancer](https://www.britannica.com/science/cancer-disease) treatment and other medical applications) emit [ionizing energy](https://www.britannica.com/science/ionizing-radiation) that can harm living organisms. Hazardous wastes pose special handling, storage, and disposal challenges that vary according the nature of the material.

Electronic waste, or e-waste, is electronic equipment that has ceased to be of value to users or that no longer satisfies its original purpose as a result of either [redundancy](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/redundancy), replacement, or breakage. Electronic waste includes both “white goods” such as refrigerators, washing machines, and [microwave ovens](https://www.britannica.com/technology/microwave-oven) and “brown goods” such as [televisions](https://www.britannica.com/technology/television-technology), [radios](https://www.britannica.com/topic/radio), [computers](https://www.britannica.com/technology/computer), and [cellular telephones](https://www.britannica.com/technology/cell-phone). E-waste differs from traditional municipal waste. Although e-waste contains complex combinations of highly toxic substances (such as [lead](https://www.britannica.com/science/lead-chemical-element) and [cadmium](https://www.britannica.com/science/cadmium) in computers and cellular telephones) that pose a danger to health and the environment, which should be treated as hazardous materials with respect to their disposal, it also contains nonrecyclable parts that enter the municipal solid waste stream. Electronic devices also contain recoverable parts made of [gold](https://www.britannica.com/science/gold-chemical-element), [silver](https://www.britannica.com/science/silver), [platinum](https://www.britannica.com/science/platinum), and other valuable materials, as well as recyclable materials (such as [plastics](https://www.britannica.com/science/plastic) and [copper](https://www.britannica.com/science/copper)), that can be used to make new electronic items. [](https://cdn.britannica.com/31/175931-050-BF73CFB3/Electronic-waste-computers-e-waste.jpg)

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

1. What is waste disposal?
2. What does the term ’’waste’’ encompass?
3. How is it possible to classify waste?
4. What is the job of wastewater-treatment plants?
5. How would you define refuse?
6. Explan the difference between garbage, rubbish and trash.
7. What is a sanitary landfill?
8. Which materials are treated as hazardous waste?
9. Explain the meaning of ’’ingest’’ and ’’absorb by the skin’’.
10. Where can pathogens be found?
11. Is reactive waste the same as radioactive waste?
12. How should hazardous waste be treated?
13. Translate part of the text reffering to hazardous waste.
14. What is e-waste?
15. What are ’’white’’ and ’’brown’’ goods?
16. Name some of the toxic substances found in e-waste.
17. Is it possible to recycle e-waste?

**Guess the words behind the definitions**

1.[waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waste) that has substantial or potential threats to [public health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_health) or the [environment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_environment)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.capable of being partitioned, like when organic substances are broken down into simpler forms of matter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.a type of [wastewater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wastewater) that is produced by a [community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community) of people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4.capable of catching or being set on fire\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Translate these terms into Serbian**

remove impurities from wastewater-

groundwater aquifier-

wastewater treatment-

disposal site-

impermeable-

**Define these terms in English**

pit-

solid waste-

liquid waste-