

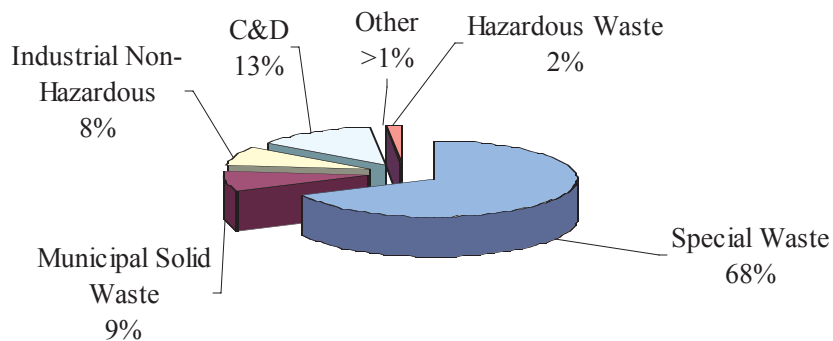


SOLID WASTE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines solid waste as any garbage or refuse; sludge from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility; and other discarded material including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural activities. The term does not include solid and dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point sources under 33 U.S.C. 1342, or source, special nuclear, or by-product materials as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (68 Stat. 923).

EPA estimates that around 7,600 million tons of solid waste is generated annually in the United States. Of the total, approximately 5,000 million tons (66%) are wastewaters. The remaining 2,600 million tons (34%) include: 1,782 million tons (68%) of special wastes, 350 million tons (13%) of construction and demolition waste, 229 million tons (9%) of municipal solid waste, 214 million tons (8%) of industrial non-hazardous waste, 6 million tons (<1%) of other non-hazardous wastes, and 41 million tons (2%) of hazardous waste.

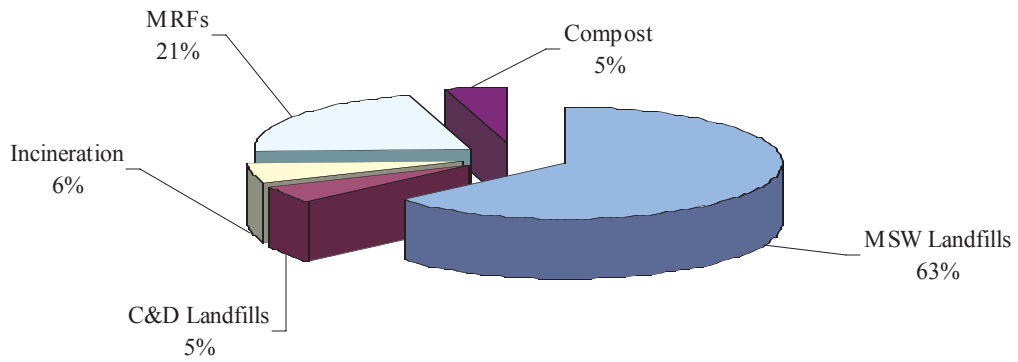
Total Quantity of RCRA Wastes (excluding wastewaters)



Excluding hazardous wastes, which a small portion of the total solid waste generated, some 2,559 million tons of non-hazardous solid waste must be managed in the United States each year. The vast majority (79%) of the non-hazardous solid waste is managed on sites that are owned and operated by the generators of that waste. The remaining 545 million tons of waste is set off-site for management in the following facilities: 63.5 percent (348.7 million tons) in municipal solid waste landfills; 20.9 percent (113.7 million tons) in material recycling facilities; 5.8 percent (31.3 million tons) in incinerators; 5.1 percent (27.9 million tons) in construction and demolition debris landfills; and 4.8 percent (26.1 million tons) in compost facilities.

Of the 545 million tons of non-hazardous waste managed off-site, private companies managed 376.9 million tons (69%) and the public sector managed 167.8 million tons (31%). The off-site facilities managing non-hazardous solid waste are primarily owned (52.6%) by private companies, while the public sector owns 47.5 percent of the facilities.

Management of Non-Hazardous Solid Wastes



Management of Solid Waste by Sector

