

SOLID WASTE DEFINITIONS

The following definitions come from the EPA guide as well as the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act.

Abatement Debris: waste resulting from remediation (clean-up) activities.

Agricultural Waste: solid waste generated by the raising of animals or the production and harvest of crops or trees.

Aluminum Cans: containers and packaging such as beverage cans or food and other nonfood cans. Examples of recycling include processing cans into new aluminum products (containers or foil).

Banned Items: materials that cannot, by law, be disposed of in municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills.

Backyard Composting: the diversion of food scraps and yard trimmings from the MSW stream through the onsite controlled decomposition of organic matter by micro-organisms (mainly bacteria and fungi) into a humus-like product. Backyard composting is *excluded* from MSW recycling activities and is considered source reduction because the composted materials never enter the MSW stream.

Cardboard: corrugated containers made from unbleached, unwaxed paper with a ruffled (corrugated) inner liner.

Collector: public or private haulers that collect non-hazardous waste and recyclable materials from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial sources. **See Hauler.**

Combustion Ash: residual substance produced during the burning, combustion or oxidation of waste materials.

Commercial Waste: waste generated by businesses, such as office buildings; retail and wholesale establishments and restaurants. Examples include cardboard, food scraps, office paper, disposable tableware, paper napkins and yard trimmings.

Commingled Glass: recovered container or packaging glass that is not sorted by categories (color and grade)

Commingled Plastic: recovered plastic bottles and jugs not sorted by categories (color and resin type)

Commingled Recyclables: a mixture of several recyclable materials.

Composting Facility: offsite facility where the organic component of municipal solid scraps is biologically decomposed under controlled conditions; an aerobic process in which organic materials are ground or shredded and then decomposed to humus in windrow piles or in mechanical digesters, drums or similar enclosures.

Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris: waste that is generated during construction, remodeling, repair, or demolition of buildings, bridges, pavements and other structures. C&D debris includes concrete, asphalt, lumber, steel girders, steel rods, wiring, dry wall, carpets, window glass, metal and plastic piping, tree stumps, soil and other miscellaneous items related to the activities listed. Also includes natural disaster debris. These efforts are excluded from calculating the MSW recycling rate.

Crumb Rubber: ground rubber pieces used in rubber or plastic products, or processed further into reclaimed rubber or asphalt products.

Disposal Facilities: repositories for solid waste including landfills and combustors intended for permanent containment or destruction of waste materials. *Excludes* transfer stations and composting facilities.

Drop-Off Center: method of collection whereby recyclable or compostable materials are taken by individuals to a collection site and placed in designated containers. These can be staffed or un-staffed.

End User: facilities that purchase or secure recovered materials for the purpose of recycling. Examples include recycling plants and composting facilities. *Excludes* waste disposal facilities.

Exports: garbage and recyclables that are transported outside the state or locality where they originated.

Ferrous Metals: magnetic metals derived from iron (steel). Products made from ferrous metals include large and small appliances, furniture and containers and packaging (steel drums and barrels). Examples of recycling include processing steel cans, strapping and ferrous metals from appliances into new products.

Food Processing Waste: food residues produced during agricultural and industrial operations.

Food Scraps: uneaten food and food preparation waste from residences and commercial establishments (grocery stores, restaurants and produce stands), institutional sources (school cafeterias) and industrial sources (employee lunchrooms). *Excludes* food-processing waste from agricultural and industrial operations. Includes offsite composting but *excludes* source reduction activities such as backyard (onsite) composting and use of food items for human consumption (food banks).

Generators: producers of municipal solid waste such as residences, institutions, commercial businesses and industry.

Glass: containers and packaging such as beer and soft drink bottles, wine and liquor bottles, and bottles and jars for food, cosmetics and other products. For the purpose of MSW recycling, container glass is generally separated by color (clear, green and amber or brown). In addition, MSW recycling efforts include glass from furniture, appliances and consumer electronics. Does not include glass from transportation products and C&D debris. Examples of recycling include processing glass into new containers, construction materials (aggregate), or fiberglass (insulation).

Grasscycling: a source reduction activity whereby grass clippings are left on the lawn after mowing.

Hauler: a waste collection company that provides complete garbage removal services. Many also will collect recyclables. Includes both private and public entities. **See Collector.**

HDPE #2 plastics (High Density Polyethylene): Examples of products made from HDPE include milk jugs, detergent bottles, margarine tubs, drained motor oil bottles and garbage containers.

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM): hazardous products that are used and disposed of by residential – rather than industrial – consumers. These products include stains, varnishes, solvents and pesticides and other materials or products containing volatile chemicals that catch fire, react, explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic. HHM is derived from municipal solid waste. Examples of recycling include processing HHM components into new products after they have been diverted from the waste stream. Diversion from the waste stream only does not constitute recycling (i.e. through collection programs).

Imports: Garbage and recyclables that have been transported to a state or locality for processing or final disposition, but did not originate in that state.

Incinerator: a furnace for burning solid waste under controlled circumstances.

Industrial Process Waste: residues and materials produced during manufacturing operations.

Industrial Sludge: the semi liquid residue remaining from the treatment of industrial water and wastewater.

Industrial MSW: non-hazardous wastes discarded at industrial sites from packaging and office/administrative sources. Examples of MSW recycling efforts include cardboard, plastic film, wood pallets, lunchroom wastes and office paper. *Excludes* industrial process wastes from manufacturing operations.

Institutional MSW: waste generated at institutions, such as schools, libraries, hospitals and prisons. Examples of MSW recycling include cafeteria and restroom trashcan wastes, office paper, classroom wastes and yard trimmings.

Large Appliances: see White Goods

Large Generator: commercial businesses, institutions or industries that generate sufficient quantities of garbage and recyclables to warrant self-management of these materials. Examples of large generators include supermarkets, restaurants, hardware stores, shopping malls, warehouses, amusement parks, convention centers and office and apartment complexes.

LDPE #4 plastics (Low Density Polyethylene): LDPE is used for both rigid containers and plastic applications.

Lead-Acid Batteries: batteries used in automobiles, trucks and motorcycles. They contain plastic, lead (a toxic metal) and sulfuric acid. *Excludes* lead-acid batteries from large equipment, heavy-duty trucks and tractors, aircraft, military vehicles and boats.

Magazines: dry, coated magazines, catalogs and similar printed materials.

Material Recovery Facility (MRF): a facility where recyclables are sorted into specific categories and processed, or transported to processors, for remanufacturing.

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Medical Waste: any solid waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of humans or animals, in research pertaining to humans or animals, or in the production or testing of biologicals, excluding hazardous waste identified or listed under 40 CFR Part 261 or any household waste defined in 40 CFR Subsection 261.4 (b)(1).

Metal: aluminum, steel cans, strapping and metals found in appliances, consumer electronics, furniture and packaging. Includes both ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Excludes metals from industrial applications and C&D debris.

Mining Waste: residues resulting from the extraction of raw materials from the earth.

Miscellaneous: household hazardous materials, oil filters, fluorescent tubes, cooking oil, consumer electronics and other miscellaneous recyclable items found in MSW that cannot be otherwise categorized.

Mulching: the process by which the volume of organic waste is reduced through shredding or grinding.

Municipal Sludge: the semi liquid residue remaining from the treatment of municipal water and wastewater.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW): refers to waste such as durable goods, non-durable goods, containers and packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes from residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial sources, such as appliances, automobile tires, old newspapers, clothing, disposable tableware, office and classroom paper, wood pallets, and cafeteria wastes. *Excludes* solid wastes from other sources, such as construction and demolition debris, automobile bodies, municipal sludges, combustion ash, and industrial process wastes that also might be disposed of in MSW landfills and incinerators.

Natural Disaster Debris: wastes resulting from earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornados, ice storms, natural disasters and other major weather events. *Excludes* wastes resulting from heavy storms. Natural disaster debris is classified as C&D debris.

Newspapers and Inserts: periodicals printed on newsprint. Includes inserts (advertisements). Examples of recycling include processing old newspapers into new paper products (newspaper, paperboard, boxboard or animal bedding).

Nonferrous Metals: nonmagnetic metals such as aluminum, lead and copper. Products made from nonferrous metals include containers and packaging such as beverage cans, food and other nonfood cans; nonferrous metals found in appliances, furniture, electronic equipment; and non-packaging aluminum products (foil, closures and lids from bimetal cans). *Excludes* lead-acid batteries and nonferrous metals from industrial applications and C&D debris.

Non-hazardous Industrial Process Waste: waste that is neither MSW nor considered a hazardous waste under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, such as certain types of manufacturing wastes and wastewaters.

Office Paper: high-grade papers such as copier paper, letterhead, notebook, computer printout, envelopes and stationary. Note that this category of paper is also generated at locations other than offices, such as homes and institutions (schools).

Other/mixed paper: paper from books, third class mail, other commercial printing, paper towels, paper plates and cups, other non-packaging paper (posters, photographic papers, cards and games), milk cartons, folding boxes (cereal), bags and wrapping papers. Can also be a combination of plastic listed in recycling table.

Other/mixed plastic: plastic from appliances, furniture, trash bags, cups, eating utensils, sporting and recreational equipment, and other non-packaging plastic products that are recycled. Can also be a combination of paper listed in recycling table, such as #3-#7.

Other/mixed scrap metal: can be a combination of metals listed in recycling table. *Excludes* large quantities of metals found in transportation equipment, automobile bodies and C&D activities.

Other Wood: wood from furniture, cabinets, consumer electronics and other non-packaging wood products. *Excludes* wood recovered from C&D activities (lumber and tree stumps) and industrial process waste (shavings and sawdust). Examples of recycling include processing wood into mulch, compost additive or animal bedding.

Over issue Publications (over issues): printed publications, such as newspapers and magazines, which are defined as unsold inventory by the publisher. Over issues are not considered post consumer wastes and therefore cannot be counted as a part of the MSW recycling rate.

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Pallet: a portable platform made of wood or plastic lumber used for storing or moving cargo or freight. Pallets from an industrial site are an industrial waste and pallets resulting from construction activities are considered C&D waste and cannot be counted as a part of the MSW recycling rate.

Paper: paper products and materials such as newspapers, magazines, office paper, phone books, cardboard, bags and some paperboard packaging. Examples of recycling include tissue, paperboard, hydro mulch, animal bedding or insulation materials.

Paper Processor: an intermediate operating facility where recovered paper products and materials are sorted, cleaned of contaminants and prepared for final recycling.

Pay-As-You-Throw (Unit-Based Pricing): a system under which residents pay for MSW management services per unit of waste (by weight or volume) collected rather than through a fixed fee.

PETE #1 plastics (Polyethylene Terephthalate): a material used to manufacture plastic soft drink containers and rigid containers.

Phone books: telephone directories printed on paper with high ground wood content. Other directories, such as zip code and area code directories, are included in this category when they are printed on the same type of paper.

Plastic: plastic containers and packaging made from various resins, including PETE, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, and PS. *Excludes* plastics in transportation (automobiles) and construction products (PVC piping).

Post-consumer: recovered materials that have been used as a consumer item and are diverted from MSW for the purpose of collection, recycling and disposition (aluminum beverage cans, plastic bottles, newspapers and yard trimmings). *Excludes* materials from industrial processes that have not reached the consumer, such as glass broken in the manufacturing process or over issues of newspapers and magazines.

PP #5 plastics (Polypropylene): PP has good resistance to heat and is used in flexible and rigid packaging, film and textiles.

Pre-consumer: materials generated in manufacturing and converting processes, such as manufacturing scrap and trimmings/cuttings. Also includes print overruns, over issue publications (newspapers and magazines) and obsolete inventories.

Print Overruns: a quantity of paper that is printed beyond the quantity specified.

Processors: intermediate operators that handle recyclable materials from collectors and generators for the purpose of preparing materials for recycling (material recovery facilities, scrap metal yards, paper dealers, and glass beneficiation plants). Processors act as intermediaries between collectors and end users of recovered materials.

PS #6 plastics (Polystyrene): PS is used to make a variety of products including plastic cutlery and food containers. Often used in its foam state.

PVC #3 plastics (Polyvinyl Chloride): the family of plastic copolymers known as vinyl. PVC is used to make pipes, bottles, upholstery and automotive parts.

Recovery: the diversion of materials from the MSW stream for the purpose of recycling or composting. *Excludes* reuse and source reduction activities such as yard trimmings diverted to backyard (onsite) composting, the repair of wood pallets and the refilling of beverage containers.

Recyclables: those materials recovered from the solid waste stream and transported to a processor or end user for recycling.

Recycling: the series of activities by which discarded materials are collected, sorted, processed and converted into raw materials and used in the production of new products. South Carolina includes the use of used oil and tires as a fuel substitute or for energy production as recycling.

Residential Waste: waste generated by single or multi-family homes including newspapers, clothing, disposable tableware, food packaging, cans and bottles, food scraps and yard trimmings. *Excludes* food wastes and yard trimmings diverted to backyard composting (onsite).

Residues: the materials remaining after processing, incineration, composting or recycling activities that have been completed. Usually disposed of in a landfill.

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Reuse: the use of a product or component of MSW in its original form more than once. Examples include refilling glass or plastic bottles, repairing wood pallets, using cardboard or plastic containers for storage and returning milk containers.

Scrap Metal Processor: an intermediate operating facility where recovered metal is sorted, cleaned of contaminants and prepared for final recycling.

Source Reduction: the design, manufacturing, purchase, or use of materials, such as products and packaging, to reduce the amount or toxicity of materials before they enter the MSW management system, such as redesigning products or packaging to reduce the quantity of materials or the toxicity of the materials used; reusing products or packaging already manufactured and lengthening the life of products to postpone disposal. Examples include donating food to food banks, diverting food scraps and yard trimmings through backyard (onsite) composting and reusing plastic pallets. Also referred to as waste prevention.

Steel Cans: tin-coated steel containers such as cans used for food packaging.

Textiles: fibers from discarded apparel, furniture, linens (sheets and towels) and carpets. Examples of MSW recycling include converting apparel and linens into wiper rags and processing textiles into new products (linen paper and carpet padding).

Tire Processor: an intermediate operating facility where recovered tires are processed in preparation for recycling.

Tires: motorcycle, passenger car and light- and heavy-duty truck tires. *Excludes* high-speed industrial tires (airplanes), bus tires, and special service tires, such as military, agricultural, off-road, and slow-speed industrial tires (from construction vehicles). Examples of recycling include processing car and truck tires into new rubber products (trash cans, storage containers and rubberized asphalt, tire chips), the combustion of whole tires or tire chips for fuel, and the use of whole tires for playground and reef construction.

Tree Stumps: the portion of a tree remaining after it has been cut. Tree stumps are categorized as yard trimmings when found in MSW. Otherwise, tree stumps are generally found in, and categorized as, C&D debris.

Used Oil: spent motor oil from passenger cars and trucks as well as farmers that is collected at specified locations for recycling. Do-it-yourself used oil is included in the definition of MSW. Gas/oil mixtures are also included.

Waste Generation: the amount (weight or volume) of materials and products that enter the waste stream before recycling, composting, landfilling or combustion takes place.

Waste Stream: the total flow of solid waste from homes, businesses, institutions and manufacturing plants that must be recycled, incinerated or disposed of in landfills; or any segment thereof, such as the "residential waste stream" or the "recyclable waste stream."

Waste-To-Energy Facility/Combustor: a facility where recovered MSW is converted into a usable form of energy, usually through combustion. SC identifies waste-to-energy activities (not incineration) as recycling.

White Goods: major appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, air conditioners and water heaters. Also refers to ovens, freezers, washers and dryers or trash compactors manufactured for household, commercial or recreational use. Steel is the predominant material used in the manufacture of large appliances. Other materials found in appliances, in varying amounts, include copper, brass, aluminum, glass, rubber and paperboard.

Wood Packaging: wood products such as pallets, crates and barrels. *Excludes* wood from furniture and other nonpackaging wood products. Examples of recycling include processing wood into new products (mulch and compost).

Yard Trimmings: grass, leaves, tree branches and brush and tree stumps as a result of day to day activities from residential, institutional and commercial sources. Examples of recycling include processing yard trimmings into compost, mulch or other similar uses, and land spreading of leaves (when the depth of the application allows for the degradation of the organic plant material). *Excludes* natural disaster debris.

Yard Trimmings Processor: an intermediate operating facility where recovered yard trimmings are sorted, cleaned of contaminants and prepared for final recycling.

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