

Management Options for Street Sweeping Materials



LANDFILL OPTIONS:

All or some of the materials are disposed of at a landfill site.

Management Option	Description
Disposed at solid waste landfill	Street sweepings are gathered, stockpiled, and hauled to a municipal solid waste landfill or private disposal site.
Garbage/debris to landfill	Street sweeping material is screened and garbage/debris (non-recyclable or non-organic trash materials) are separated and landfilled.

REUSE OPTIONS:

Street sweeping material is screened for removal of recyclable materials, organic materials, and trash. Materials are then sorted for the following uses.

Management Option	Description
Alternate daily cover (ADC)	The remaining fines/dirt are used as alternate daily cover (ADC) at landfill sites.
Compost	Organic materials (e.g., fall leaves) are composted.
Recycling	The recyclable materials (e.g., metal, paper, glass, aluminum cans) are disposed via recycling.
Fill dirt	After screening, the remaining material is used in commercial or industrial development, road restoration, or construction projects. The fill is intended to be used for an engineered purpose.
Subgrade material	Street sweeping material is screened for sand, which is used as subgrade material.
Aggregate in concrete or asphalt	After screening, the remaining material is used as aggregate for concrete or asphalt.
Winter application	The screened sand is mixed with salt/sand mixture for winter application to roads, parking lots or sidewalks.
Bulking agent	After screening, the remaining material is used as a bulking agent for wastewater sludge or septage disposal. The mixed material is disposed of in a permitted lined or unlined sludge or septage landfill.
Spill cleanups	Street sweepings that have been determined to be non-hazardous may be used as absorptive material to contain or to absorb hazardous materials in emergency situations.
Waste to energy	The larger trash and organic materials (e.g., vegetation) can be used in a waste to energy facility to produce electricity.

NOTE: Minnesota does not allow the use of street sweepings in the following areas:

- Playgrounds
- Children's play areas
- Residential yards
- Areas with regular human contact
- Near drinking water wells
- Wellhead protection areas for public drinking water supplies
- Sites with karst features, including sinkholes, disappearing streams and caves

Management Guidance for Street Sweeping Materials

Do street sweeping materials need to be tested?

NO - They are not considered hazardous material by the MPCA and do not require testing.

Exception: If the materials were collected from an area that is known to be or is suspected to be contaminated.

Note: Testing may be required by local agencies – check local rules.

Are there any restrictions on how I can reuse sweeping materials?

YES – Street sweepings that are not screened for trash and debris are considered industrial solid waste and must be disposed of at a permitted solid waste facility.

What are the general rules for reusing street sweeping materials?

RULE 1: Clean the material first

You will need to remove the trash, leaves, and other debris from the sweepings before you reuse it. This is typically done with screening equipment.

RULE 2: Avoid placing material in restricted areas

Sweeping materials cannot be used in the following areas:

- playgrounds
- children's play areas
- residential yards
- areas where human contact occurs on a continuous basis
- areas near drinking water wells
- wellhead protection areas for public drinking-water supplies
- sites with karst features, including sinkholes, disappearing streams and caves

RULE 3: Only use the screened material in one of three ways without MPCA approval:

1. WINTER ROAD APPLICATION: Mix with new salt/sand mixture for winter application to roads, parking lots or sidewalks.
2. ALTERNATE DAILY COVER: Use as daily cover material at a permitted solid waste landfill, provided that the landfill is approved to use street sweepings as Alternate Daily Cover (ADC).
3. PROJECT MATERIAL: Use as material in commercial and industrial development projects, road restoration or construction projects.

RULE 4: Follow setback & cover requirements when using material as cover or fill

SEPARATION DISTANCES requirements:

- 200 feet from lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, intermittent streams, tile inlets, and karst features
- 3 feet from groundwater
- 3 feet from fractured bedrock
- 50 feet from potable water supplies

SEED OR COVER requirements:

- Within 7 days on slopes greater than 3:1
- Within 14 days on slopes between 10:1 and 3:1
- Within 21 days on slopes flatter than 10:1

SEE MPCA'S GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Managing Street Sweepings (June 2010): www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-sw4-54.pdf.