approved research, development, and demonstration project (RDDP). Go to www.michigan.gov/deqwaste "Hazardous & Liquid Industrial Waste" "Hazardous & Liquid Industrial Waste Management" or contact the District Office for more information.

**Low-level radioactive waste**—Call Waste and Hazardous Materials Division at 517-335-2690 or e-mail radioactivematerial@michigan.gov or contact the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III at 630-829-9500, or go to www.nrc.gov and www.michigan.gov/deqwaste "Radiological Protection" for management and disposal options.

**Medical waste**—Some medical waste cannot be landfilled. Contact the landfill authority regarding what they accept.

Residences can find collection programs for sharps and the publication "The Point is Needles Hurt" about handling needles and syringes at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste "Medical Waste". Medical waste producing facilities can find additional requirements and medical waste disposal services on this website.

**Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)**—Contact the landfill authority to see if they accept small capacitors or fluorescent light ballasts containing PCBs. Contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 office, at 312-886-7061 or go to www.epa.gov/pcb for other disposal options and management requirements for both PCB items and PCB-contaminated material.

**Regulated hazardous waste—**Household hazardous waste (HHW) is not prohibited from landfills. Residents are encouraged to participate in household hazardous waste collections (list at www.michigan.gov/deqrecyclingcontacts) where available. More information about HHW is at www.earth911.org or call 1-800-CLEANUP. Although not recommended, facilities that are conditionally exempt small quantity generators of hazardous waste may dispose of solid hazardous waste in a Type II landfill if the landfill authority will accept it. Other hazardous waste from facilities is prohibited from disposal in solid waste landfills. Contact the DEQ District Office with questions and go to www.michigan.gov/deqwaste "Hazardous & Liquid Industrial Waste" "Hazardous & Liquid Industrial Waste Management" for information.

**Septage—**Waste removed from septic systems is prohibited from being landfilled unless the landfill has an approved research, development, and demonstration project (RDDP), or liquids have been removed so it passes the paint filter test. Discuss disposal of dewatered septage with the landfill authority. To find licensed septage waste haulers and information about caring for your septic system, go to www.michigan.gov/deqseptage.

**Sewage—** Untreated domestic wastewater sewage is not allowed in landfills. Wastewater treatment plants may contact the landfill authority regarding treated sludge (biosolids) disposal options.

**Used oil**—Used oil may not be disposed of in landfills, waste incinerators, or used as dust control. Many oil change locations, auto supply stores, and local recycling programs accept used oil. Do not mix used oil with other wastes unless allowed by the recyclers. Businesses have additional used oil management requirements.

**NEED HELP FINDING LANDFILLS OR AGENCY CONTACTS?**

Local waste companies can be located in the yellow pages under the heading "Waste Reduction Disposal & Recycling Services." Landfill information can also be found at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste "Solid Waste" under "Solid Waste Facilities."

Contact Waste and Hazardous Materials Division staff in the DEQ district office. A map is at www.michigan.gov/deq "Inside DEQ" "Contact DEQ". Or call the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278 Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for referral.

● Printing of this July 2006 brochure was supported by USEPA funding

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Office of Personnel Services, PO Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909.

# TALKING TRASH

## MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL PROHIBITED MATERIALS AND APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL OPTIONS

DEQ

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Steven E. Chester, Director

# Landfill Prohibited Materials and Appropriate Disposal Options

Michigan's solid waste law and rules and federal regulations have restrictions about certain wastes being disposed of in municipal solid waste landfills, also called Type II landfills. Be aware there are different requirements for residential waste and other facilities' waste.

Customers should call the landfill authority and waste hauler to find out their specific disposal options. Also contact the recycling coordinator regarding local recycling and reuse options (list at www.michigan.gov/deqrecyclingcontacts). Facilities can find waste management information in Chapter 2 of the Michigan Manufacturers' Guide to Environmental Health and Safety Regulations at www.michigan.gov/deqmanufactguide.

*Certain wastes are allowed in Michigan Type II landfills, but only in de minimis quantities. These wastes include beverage containers, whole motor vehicle tires, and yard clippings. In order to be considered de minimis, they must satisfy all of the following three criteria:*

- *Commingled with other waste in the truckload – the items cannot be readily separated from the other waste*
- *Small in quantity – typical of what a single household would generate*
- *Present in an incidental manner*

**Beverage containers—**1 gallon or less in size and are either a:

- Soft drink
- Soda water, carbonated natural or mineral water, or other nonalcoholic carbonated drink
- Beer, ale, or other malt drink of whatever alcoholic content
- Mixed wine drink or mixed spirit drink

If a deposit was paid on a beverage container, return the container to any retailer that sells that beverage. If a deposit was not paid because it was purchased out-of-state, recycle the container through a local recycling program. See the frequently asked questions about the Deposit Law at www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-wmd-swp-mibottledepositlawFAQ1.pdf.

**Scrap tires—**Whole scrap tires may be accepted at a landfill if set aside for further processing, but are prohibited from disposal in the landfill. Prior to landfill disposal, the tire must be cut or otherwise processed into pieces.

Most tire retailers will accept old tires when new tires are purchased. Check with tire retailers if they accept other old tires. Some communities hold special waste collection days. Contact the local recycling program for more information.

Lists of registered scrap tire haulers, recyclers, processors, and end-users, along with other scrap tire management requirements can be found at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste "Scrap Tires."

**Yard clippings—**Leaves, grass clippings, vegetable or other garden debris, and shrubbery, brush and tree trimmings less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, are prohibited from landfills and incinerators. The ban does not include diseased or infected yard waste. Also vegetative matter used for home decoration and disposed of in de minimis quantities, such as Christmas trees, wreaths, and potted plants are not subject to the ban on yard clippings.

Use yard clippings as mulch or practice backyard composting when possible. Contact your county MSU Extension Office (list is at www.msue.msu.edu) for guidance. Yard clippings may also be sent to composting facilities. List of facilities and more information is at www.michigan.gov/deqrecycling).

*The following wastes also have landfill restrictions.*

**Appliances and other items containing refrigerants**—Coolants, often known by the trade name Freon®, are regulated under Section 608 of the Clean Air Act, and should not be disposed of in a solid waste landfill without accompanying documentation attesting to the proper removal of refrigerant from the appliances. See information at www.epa.gov/ozone. Contact the landfill authority to discuss their requirements if they accept appliances. Other options include salvage yards (look in yellow pages under scrap metal heading) or metal recyclers at www.michigan.gov/deqrmmd. Companies that service appliances may also remove coolants from old appliances prior to recycling or disposal.

**Asbestos—**Regulated asbestos waste is prohibited from landfills unless the landfill meets additional requirements under the Clean Air Act. Contact the landfill authority to find out if they accept asbestos waste, and any special labeling and packaging requirements. For information about types of asbestos regulated by both DEQ and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, and list of licensed abatement contractors, go to www.michigan.gov/deqair and select "Compliance" "Asbestos NESHAP Program".

Homeowners may remove asbestos from their own residences when doing remodeling or demolition projects, but precautions need to be taken and waste taken to a licensed disposal site. Go to www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/453.html for information.

**Empty drums**—Drums must be crushed to eliminate voids. Contact the landfill authority to see if they accept. Businesses may find drum recyclers at www.michigan.gov/deqrmmd.

**Lead acid batteries**—Return used batteries to the retailer when purchasing new ones. Any place that sells lead acid batteries must accept at least the same number of batteries sold. Residents should contact the local recycling program for other options. Facilities can find recyclers at www.michigan.gov/deqrmmd.

**Liquid waste**—Waste that fails the paint filter test is prohibited from landfill disposal when it is not from a household, unless the landfill has an