



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WASTE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL WASTES AND SOIL SCREENING



The County of Santa Cruz accepts non-hazardous special wastes that have been properly sampled, analyzed, and found to be acceptable for disposal at the landfill or for use as cover at the landfill. The County **does not accept** waste that is defined as hazardous by RCRA and/or CCR Title 22. Hazardous waste, asbestos (friable and non-friable), radioactive waste, and untreated medical waste (biohazardous or infectious waste) are not allowed for disposal at the County of Santa Cruz.

WASTE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL WASTES

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works owns and operates the Buena Vista Landfill, located at 1231 Buena Vista Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076. The County of Santa Cruz Recycling and Solid Waste Section has developed and implemented a Waste Screening and Acceptance Program to assist in preventing hazardous and other prohibited wastes from entering the facility and to establish procedures and acceptance levels for special (nontraditional) solid wastes. The BVL accepts non-hazardous special wastes that have been properly sampled, analyzed, and found to be acceptable for disposal at the landfill or for use as cover at the landfill. The County of Santa Cruz does not accept waste that is defined as hazardous by RCRA and/or CCR Title 22.

PRE-APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

All special wastes must be pre-approved by The County of Santa Cruz prior to acceptance at the BVL. The County of Santa Cruz requires the completion of a Generator Waste Profile, along with any required analytical results before pre-approval will be granted. It is the responsibility of the generator to certify that the materials for management at BVL are non-hazardous per CCR Title 22 Section 66260. For materials that require laboratory analysis, the generator must provide representative analysis. The County of Santa Cruz site permits do not require any specific testing requirements or sampling frequency for individual waste streams. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has developed an Information Advisory for clean fill sampling. This Information Advisory can be found at www.DTSC.ca.gov. Contact DTSC for assistance in developing an appropriate sampling plan for your special wastes.

UNCONTAMINATED SOIL ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

The County of Santa Cruz Buena Vista Landfill accepts, for reduced charge, soil that meets the following “uncontaminated, dry soil” criteria:

- (a) **The percent moisture content is less than 10%**
 - Compliance with this criterion is based on the County’s determination of the physical properties of the soil upon inspection at the scale house. If further inspection is required, the soil will be inspected as it is discharged from the vehicle.
- (b) **Clean Soil shall not contain any chemical contaminants including:**
 - Petroleum hydrocarbons, BTEX, pesticides, PCB’s or heavy metals. The County reserves the right to require a laboratory analysis of the soil prior to acceptance.
 - **Uncontaminated soil includes limits based on 2019 [HERO](#), [USEPA](#), [RWQCB Tier 1 Screening](#) based on Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Construction Worker Shallow and Deep Soil and Soil Leaching to Groundwater Screening Levels and compiles the lesser of the composited limits for the “Uncontaminated Soil Criteria” in which the soil may be taken at a reduced rate.**
 - Any project over 100 cubic yards will require a soil analysis. Less than 100 cubic yards may require soil analysis.
- (c) **Clean soil shall not contain any of the following contaminants.**
 - Land clearing debris, stumps, pipes, sod, brush, wood or other C&D waste

- Septic or waste line excavation material
- Paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, metal or trash
- Asphalt or concrete
- Excessive sand
- (d) **Clean soil shall not contain any of the following contaminants in excess of 1% by volume.**
 - Weeds, roots or other organic material
 - Rocks over 1" in diameter
- (e) **Other Conditions:**
 - [Click Here for Establishing a Landfill Account](#)
 - No loads during rain or 48 hours prior to forecasted rainstorm. [Click Here for 7-Day Forecast](#)
 - All loads must be brought in within 60 days of first acceptance of the project by County Staff. Should you need more time - an extension may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
 - Recycle all recyclable materials and divert all hazardous materials from the loads.

Soil not meeting the above clean dry soil criteria will either be accepted at the **Basic Solid Waste Rate** or, after prior approval, may be charged at the **Contaminated Soil Rate**. [Click Here for the Unified Fee Schedule and Select Public Works](#)

- The waste category and disposal fee is based on the County staff's visual determination of the waste materials degree of contamination, moisture content and physical properties, not the exact percent of contamination or moisture content.
- The County staff's visual determination of compliance is final.
- Reduced rate and contaminated rate fees are based on operational needs, call ahead for current rates.

CONTAMINATED SOIL TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The County of Santa Cruz reserves the right to require the generator to perform additional analytical testing. The minimum required sampling frequency is as follows:

QUANTITY (CUBIC YARDS) OF SOIL	NUMBER OF SAMPLES
Less than 100 cubic yards	3 discrete samples
100 to 500 cubic yards	5 discrete samples
More than 500 cubic yards	5 discrete samples plus one additional sample per 500 cubic yards in excess of 500 cubic yards.

PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS	CONSTITUENT	EPA METHOD
Diesel	TPH (Diesel)	3550/8015
Gasoline	TPH (Gasoline)	5030/8015
	BTEX	5030/8020
	MTBE	8020
	Lead	6020A
	TPH (Diesel, Gasoline, Motor Oil)	8015, 5030
Waste Oil	Volatile Organics	8260/8010/8020
	Semi-Volatile Organics	8270
	Organochlorine Pesticides	8081
	PCBs	8082
	CAM 17 (Title 22) Metals	6020A, 7471
	TPH	8015
Fuel Oil/Bunker Oil/Hydraulic	TPH	8015
Oil/Kerosene	BTEX	5030/8020

CONTAMINANT THRESHOLD LIMITS

The County of Santa Cruz only accepts material that is represented by analytical results indicating concentrations below the following listed threshold values. This is not a complete list and may change at any time for any reason.

PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS		THRESHOLD VALUE FOR ACCEPTANCE		
Contaminant	Total Threshold Limit Concentration (TTL) (mg/kg)	Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration (STLC) (mg/L)	Uncontaminated Soil Criteria (mg/kg)	
MTBE	12	0.6	0.023	
Benzene	10	0.5	0.025	
Toluene	24	1.2	3.2	
Ethylbenzene	18	0.9	0.43	
Xylene	12	0.6	10	
TPHg con. in the C4-C12 carbon-chain range	<1,000		100	
TPHd con. in the C12-C24 carbon-chain range	<2,300		260	
TPHo con. in the C24-C36 or greater carbon-chain range	<5,000		1600	

INORGANICS		THRESHOLD VALUE FOR ACCEPTANCE			
Contaminant	TTL (mg/kg)	Hazardous Waste Criteria (mg/kg)	STLC (mg/L)	Hazardous Waste Criteria (mg/L)	Uncontaminated Soil Criteria (mg/kg)
Antimony	400	500	0.06	15	6.1
Arsenic	40	50	0.5	5.0	0.038
Barium	8,000	10,000	10	100	390
Beryllium	60	75	0.04	0.75	4.0
Cadmium	80	100	0.05	1.0	1.9
Chromium (VI)	400	500	0.5	5.0	0.3
Chromium (Total or III)	2,000	2,500	0.5	5.0	160
Cobalt	6,400	8,000	0.5	80	23
Copper	2,000	2,500	20	25	180
Fluoride salts	14,400	18,000	90	180	
Lead	800	1,000	0.5	5.0	32
Mercury	16	20	0.02	0.2	1.0
Molybdenum	2,800	3,500	0.1	350	6.9
Nickel	1,600	2,000	1.0	20	86
Selenium	80	100	0.1	1.0	2.4
Silver	400	500	0.5	5.0	25
Thallium	560	700	0.005	7.0	0.78
Vanadium	1,920	2,400	0.2	24	18
Zinc	4,000	5,000	200	250	340

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS		THRESHOLD VALUE FOR ACCEPTANCE		
Contaminant	TTL (mg/kg)	STLC (mg/L)	TCLP (mg/L)	Uncontaminated Soil Criteria (mg/kg)
Aldrin	1.4	0.14	0.5	0.0024
Benzene	10	0.5	0.5	0.025
Carbon Tetrachloride		0.5	0.5	0.011
Chlordane	2.5	0.25	0.03	0.0085
Chlorobenzene			100	1.4
Chloroform			6.0	0.023
Cresols*			200	
2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	100	10	10	
DDT, DDE, DOD	1.0	0.1		0.0011
1,4-Dichlorobenzene			7.5	0.2
1,2-Dichloroethane			0.5	0.007
1,1-Dichloroethylene			0.7	0.54
2,4-Dinitrotoluene			0.13	

*If o-, m-, and p-Cresol concentrations cannot be differentiated the total cresol concentration is used. The regulatory level of total cresol is 200 mg/L.

ORGANIC COMPOUNDS	THRESHOLD VALUE FOR ACCEPTANCE			
	TTLc (mg/kg)	STLC (mg/L)	TCLP (mg/L)	Uncontaminated Soil Criteria (mg/kg)
Dieldrin	8.0	0.8		0.00046
Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD)	0.01	0.001		0.001
Endrin	0.2	0.02		0.0011
Heptachlor	0.8	0.008	0.008	0.12
Hexachlorobenzene			0.13	0.13
Hexachlorobutadiene			0.5	0.028
Hexachloroethane			3.0	0.3
Endrin Ketone	21	2.1		0.0011
gamma-BHC(Lindane)	4.0	0.4	0.4	0.0074
Methoxychlor	100	10	10	0.013
Methyl Ethyl Ketone			200	3.9
Mirex	21	2.1		
Nitrobenzene			2.0	
Pentachlorophenol	17	1.7	100	3.0
Perchlorate	10			0.5
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's)	50	5.0		0.23
Pyridine			5.0	
Tetrachloroethylene			0.7	0.34
Toxaphene	5.0	0.5	0.5	0.45
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	50	0.5	0.5	5.0
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	10	1.0	1.0	0.01
2,4,5-Trichlorophenol			400	3.2
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol			2.0	0.023
Vinyl Chloride			0.2	0.0015

DEFINITIONS

Nonhazardous solid waste is defined in Title 27 §20220(a) as "all putrescible and non-putrescible solid, semi-solid, and liquid wastes, including garbage, trash, refuse, paper, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles and parts thereof, discarded home and industrial appliances, manure, vegetable or animal solid and semi-solid wastes and other discarded wastes (whether of solid or semi-solid consistency), provided that such wastes do not contain wastes which must be managed as hazardous wastes or wastes which contain soluble pollutants in concentrations which exceed applicable water quality objectives, or could cause degradation of waters of the state (i.e. designated waste)."

Uncontaminated Soils that do not exceed the following threshold criteria may be disposed of or used onsite at any portion of a landfill, lined or unlined, provided placement is within the Facility's Permitted Waste Boundary and any runoff that has contacted the contaminated soils is captured by the facility's stormwater management system:

- (a) Threshold concentration levels for constituents other than petroleum hydrocarbons are required to be profiled in order to comply with disposal requirements and include:
 - i. Soils with an average, contaminant-specific concentration that does not exceed a Regional Screening Level (RSL) for residential sites established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
 - ii. In the absence of RSL limits, soils with an average, contaminant-specific concentration that does not exceed an Environmental Screening Level (ESL) for "Soil Tier 1" compiled by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
 - iii. For soils for which a RSL or ESL has not been established, an average contaminant specific concentration shall not exceed, on a per weight basis 10 times the maximum

contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water, established by the USEPA or the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water, whichever is more stringent.

- iv. Soils with an average pH that does not exceed 9 or fall below 6, the established criteria for pH in the Basin Plan.

Contaminated soils can be either nonhazardous, hazardous, or designated solid wastes, depending upon the concentrations of toxic or harmful chemical contaminants contained therein. The term "contaminated soils" means soils that contain chemical contaminants such as total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and California Assessment Manual (CAM) metals that are below threshold values that would cause the soil to be classified as hazardous (Class I) or designated (Class II) waste. Soils contaminated with low to moderate concentrations of such contaminants are wastes in California Water Code (CWC) §13050 and are required to be regulated under waste discharge requirements pursuant to CWC §13263(a). The discharge of such wastes to land has the potential to affect the quality of the waters of the State if not properly managed. Disposal of contaminated soils in properly engineered and managed MSW (Class III) landfills is an efficient and economical means of controlling the effects of such discharge of waste, thereby eliminating or reducing threats to water of the State.

THE FACILITY DOES NOT ACCEPT WASTE THAT IS DEFINED AS HAZARDOUS UNDER RCRA or CCR Title 22.

Visit <https://www.epa.gov/rcra> and <https://dtsc.ca.gov/> for more information on Hazardous Waste Laws and Regulations

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Please contact: County of Santa Cruz Scale House Supervisor, 831-454-5154
- For Special Projects Contact: Recycling and Solid Waste Services Manager 831-454-2160 / kasey.kolassa@santacruzcountyca.gov
- For grading permit requirements: <https://sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Environmental/Grading/GradingPermits.aspx>

Submit a Completed Waste Manifest Profile and Lab Data to dpwweb@santacruzcounty.us For Approval

Call 831.454.2160 For More Information