

EARTH IN DANGER

Garbage and Recycling



by Helen Orme

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by Helen Orme

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Lots of Garbage

Every day people throw things away— newspapers, magazines, glass bottles, plastic containers, metal cans, cardboard boxes, and leftover food. Even expensive items such as old or broken computers, cell phones, washing machines, and cars eventually become garbage.



It might not seem like a person throws out much garbage each day—but it adds up quickly. Each person in the United States throws away an average of about three-quarters of a ton (.68 metric tons) of garbage every year. Where does it all go?



People in the United States throw out more items made from paper than any other kind of material.

What Do People Throw Away?





Where Does Garbage Go?

Most communities have trucks that pick up garbage. More than half of this garbage is dumped into huge holes in the ground called **landfills**. There, bulldozers flatten the garbage and cover it with a layer of earth. Then more garbage and earth can be put on top of that layer.

As more and more garbage is dumped into a landfill, the landfill gets higher. When the landfill can't hold any more garbage, it is completely covered over with earth. At that point some landfills are turned into parks or parking lots.

A bulldozer flattening garbage



*Mount
Trashmore Park*



Mount Trashmore Park, in the city of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was once a huge landfill. Today it is a park with playgrounds, a basketball court, hiking trails, picnic areas, two lakes, and a skateboard course.

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Garbage and Recycling

Each person in the United States throws away about three-quarters of a ton (.68 metric tons) of garbage every year. What happens to all that garbage? Much of it is buried in landfills. Some of it is burned. Both of these solutions, however, waste natural resources and cause pollution. How can people get rid of their garbage while still caring for the environment? Look inside to find the answer and discover how recycling can help protect the planet.

Climate Change

Energy for the Future

Garbage and Recycling

Habitat Destruction

Living Green

Pollution

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