

Disposal of Synthetic Mineral Fibre Wastes



Summerhill Waste Management Centre

Waste Description

Synthetic Mineral Fibres (SMF) are man-made mineral fibres including fibreglass, rockwool and ceramic fibres (e.g. ceiling insulation batts or air conditioning ducting).

Health Hazards

Synthetic Mineral Fibre contains tiny fibres which can irritate skin or eyes etc and which can cause damage when they are breathed into the lungs. The most dangerous fibres are the smallest ones which may be invisible to the naked eye, but which penetrate the lungs most deeply.

Requirements for Disposal

SMF must be carefully handled to minimise the release of dust, which may contain microscopic fibres and can result in health risks if inhaled or ingested.

Following is a suggested method of packaging these wastes for transport and disposal to minimise the release of dust. Other methods may be acceptable but, where these are proposed, prior arrangement must be made with management of the Summerhill Waste Management Centre. Alternative proposals must be supported by appropriate risk assessments.

- Contain SMF in heavy duty plastic bags or wrap in heavy duty builders plastic. Bundles should be sized so that they remain intact during unloading. Therefore, the size of bundles may depend on the method of unloading
- Seal bundles, for example using duct tape or jointing tape
- Unload SMF bundles in a manner which minimises the release of dust. (It is the transporter's responsibility to ensure bundles remain intact during unloading).

Please follow all instructions provided by staff at the weighbridge and at the nominated tipping area.

For further information about the safe handling of SMF, please contact SafeWork NSW on 13 10 50 or visit the [SafeWork NSW website](#).

Procedure for Disposal of Synthetic Mineral Fibre Wastes at Summerhill

- SMF wastes must be booked-in by contacting the Summerhill Administration Office on 4985 6600 before 3.30pm on the last weekday prior to the delivery date. Booking details will include the type of SMF waste, number and size of loads, source of the waste, contact details for the transporter and delivery date.
- SMF wastes must be delivered to Summerhill between 7.30am and 12.00 midday on the day they are booked.
- SMF wastes will not be accepted on weekends, public holidays or after 12 midday on weekdays.

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- If rain falls during the day or night leading up to the delivery date, customers should contact the Summerhill office prior to delivering the load to ensure that site conditions will permit the acceptance of SMF loads. Acceptance is based on an assessment of site safety, trafficability etc.
- SMF waste loads will be directed to a designated area of the landfill's active face. Vehicles delivering SMF wastes should therefore be capable of safely driving over the landfill area.

Non-Compliance with Required Procedures for Disposal

The potential health impacts associated with SMF exposure and the clear legislative constraints for landfill operators mean that Centre management will not tolerate non-compliance with the above procedures for disposal of SMF wastes.

Inappropriate Packaging of Waste

In the event that waste is deemed unable to be unloaded without rupturing following inspection by landfill operational staff, a supervisor will inspect the load. Should the supervisor also determine that the load cannot be unloaded in accordance with requirements, permission will not be granted to dispose of the material and the driver will be directed to leave the site.

Failure to Unload as per Requirements

Where loads are packaged as required but the method of unloading results in bundles rupturing, details of the vehicle and load will be recorded by the Centre and the customer reminded of the Centre's requirements. Should a second load be ruptured when unloading then no further SMF loads will be accepted from that vehicle until it can be demonstrated that an alternative unloading method will be employed.

Charges

Please refer to [City of Newcastle's website](#) for current disposal charges.

Where SMF wastes are mixed with other wastes, the entire load will be charged at the rate for SMF.