

Solid Waste Interpretive Guidance Statement (SWIGS)

revised: 09/08/03

DEFINITION OF AN APPROPRIATE CONTAINER (9 VAC 20-80-60 D 6)

VSWMR 9 VAC 20-80-60 D 6 indicates that, under certain conditions, the storage or compaction (management) of solid waste at the site of its generation and in appropriate containers is exempt from the VSWMR. The VSWMR does not indicate what constitutes an appropriate container under this section of the regulation.

For the purposes of VSWMR 9 VAC 20-80-60 D 6, a container can be considered appropriate for storage or compaction of solid waste if it does not create a nuisance. The following criteria can be used to demonstrate that a container is appropriate for the storage or compaction of solid waste.

For reusable containers or compactors, the unit must be:

- X of adequate size to physically contain all the waste that is placed into it in a manner that is not a fire, health, or safety hazard, or provides food or harborage for vectors,
- X constructed of corrosion resistant metal, durable/rigid plastic, or other material, which will not absorb water, grease, or oil and is compatible with the type of waste to be stored,
- X leakproof, including sides, seams, and bottoms, and durable enough to withstand anticipated usage without rusting, cracking, or deforming in a manner that would make it a fire, health or safety hazard or provide food or harborage for vectors. (In the case of containers used for compaction, the container must be capable of withstanding the full force of the ram.),

and,
- X designed or equipped to prevent spillage and so that it cannot be tipped over easily.

For single-use plastic and paper bags, the bags must:

- X meet the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Standard No. 31 for polyethylene refuse bags and Standard No. 32 for paper refuse bags, respectively. However, such bags do not need to have been certified by the NSF. Between collection periods, single-use bags containing putrescible wastes should be stored in a manner that protects its contents from scavenging animals, (i.e, dogs, raccoons, cats, rats, etc.) and vectors. This can be accomplished by storing the plastic bags either within the confines of a building or within an appropriate reusable container as described above.