

Waste Management Knowledge Challenge

Waste Management · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which of the following materials takes the longest time to decompose in a landfill?

- A) Banana peel
- B) Plastic bottle**
- C) Paper napkin
- D) Cotton shirt

2. What is the primary purpose of a 'materials recovery facility' (MRF)?

- A) To burn waste for energy
- B) To sort and process recyclable materials**
- C) To create new landfill sites
- D) To clean ocean water

3. Which of these items is typically considered 'organic waste' that can be composted?

- A) Broken glass
- B) Plastic wrap
- C) Vegetable scraps**
- D) Aluminum foil

4. What happens to the methane gas produced by decomposing waste in a modern sanitary landfill?

- A) It is released into the atmosphere
- B) It is turned into liquid water
- C) It is captured and used to produce energy**
- D) It is converted into solid plastic

5. Which material can be recycled indefinitely without losing its quality or purity?

- A) Paper
- B) Glass**
- C) Plastic
- D) Cardboard

6. What is the term for the liquid that drains from a landfill, potentially containing dissolved pollutants?

- A) Leachate**
- B) Condensate
- C) Effluent
- D) Runoff

7. Why are plastic bags generally discouraged in curbside recycling bins?

- A) They are too heavy
- B) They tangle in sorting machinery**
- C) They are too expensive to melt
- D) They are made of metal

8. What is the main environmental benefit of recycling aluminum cans?

- A) It requires 95% less energy than making new cans from ore**
- B) It eliminates all landfill space needs
- C) It creates oxygen for the atmosphere
- D) It stops the use of paper labels

9. Which of the following describes 'downcycling'?

- A) Recycling waste into a product of lower quality**
- B) Moving waste to a lower altitude
- C) Burning trash for electricity
- D) Sorting waste by size

10. What type of waste is considered 'hazardous' and requires special disposal methods?

- A) Old cardboard boxes
- B) Used batteries**
- C) Grass clippings
- D) Clean plastic jugs

11. In the waste hierarchy, which action is considered the most preferred way to manage waste?

- A) Disposal in a landfill
- B) Incineration
- C) Waste prevention or reduction**
- D) Energy recovery

12. Which of these items is generally NOT accepted in standard municipal paper recycling?

- A) Office paper
- B) Clean cardboard
- C) Greasy pizza boxes**
- D) Newspaper

13. What is the primary function of a landfill 'liner'?

- A) To keep the trash warm
- B) To prevent waste liquids from reaching groundwater**
- C) To make the landfill smell better
- D) To attract recycling robots

14. What color bin is most commonly associated with recycling in many Australian municipal programs?

- A) Red
- B) Black
- C) Yellow**
- D) Green

15. What happens to plastic when it undergoes 'photodegradation'?

- A) It turns into soil nutrients
- B) It breaks down into smaller pieces due to sunlight**
- C) It changes into a metal
- D) It instantly disappears

16. Which item is specifically removed during the composting process because it does not break down?

- A) Eggshells
- B) Coffee grounds
- C) Plastic stickers on fruit**
- D) Apple cores

17. What is 'upcycling'?

- A) Adding value to a waste item by creating something new**
- B) Burning waste at high temperatures
- C) Burying items deeper in the ground
- D) Turning plastic into oil

18. Which of these is a major component of e-waste?

- A) Used food packaging
- B) Discarded circuit boards**
- C) Cereal boxes
- D) Cotton rags