

Rumpke Landfill Odor Information

Odors from Rumpke Sanitary Landfill may be caused by gas, garbage or a combination. Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services is working with Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, Hamilton County Public Health, Colerain Township and Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) to protect human health and reduce odor issues at Rumpke.

Methane gas is produced when garbage breaks down in a landfill. Rumpke installed a [gas collection system](#) to extract this methane and process it for use as natural gas.

During fall 2009, Rumpke reported elevated temperatures and poor gas quality in some of the gas extraction wells. This reaction is deep within the waste mass and can cause odor control issues that may impact residents depending on wind speed, wind direction and barometric pressure. Vacuum is applied to these gas collection wells for routing to a utility flare where odorous gases are destroyed.



Flare incinerates odorous gases

Odor Control Blanket

In an effort to control increased odors, Rumpke installed a covering called an Odor Control Blanket (OCB) – which is intended to trap and contain odors – over the affected area at the north end of the landfill, in June 2010. Rumpke added two more acres of OCB in September 2010 and these efforts successfully reduced odor issues in the area surrounding the landfill.



Odor Control Blanket

As this situation continued to mature, Rumpke installed an additional 10 acres of OCB in September 2011 to better contain reaction odors. Despite this additional OCB, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services has seen an increase in complaints.

The most recent installation has better captured odors from the area it covers; however, odors are now coming from other portions of the affected area. Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services continues to document off-site odors. As a result, Rumpke will install approximately 30 additional acres of OCB.

Surface Trenches

Rumpke is also installing surface trenches which, when fully operational, should help reduce odors. Surface trenches sit just below the ground surface and work with gas wells to capture gases from the underground reaction that rise to the surface. The gas travels through pipes and is routed to the utility flare where it is destroyed.



Image from Google Earth showing north end of Rumpke Landfill with OCB installed

Experts from local, state and federal agencies are working with Rumpke to monitor and control the abnormal conditions in the affected area. Although odors continue to increase, based on an ongoing review of the air emission data collected, there are no short-term or long-term health threats.

More information can be found at www.HCDOES.org. To report odor complaints, call 513-946-7777.



Underground surface trenches and gas wells capture odorous gases and route to a flare to be destroyed