

Waste gets removed by an authorized public or private service provider and relevant documentation with proof of proper waste disposal is available

Introduction:

Waste collection, transport and disposal (and, with dwindling resources, increasingly also waste recovery for recycling) is big business in South Africa. A range of contractors varying from opportunity driven “fly-in-by-night” operators to highly professional and well established service providers offer their various waste management services.

The Duty of Care principle requires that any person who generates, transports, treats or disposes of waste must ensure that there is no unauthorized transfer or escape of waste from his control. Such a person must retain documentation describing both the waste and any related transactions. In this way, he retains responsibility for the waste generation or handling.

If, for financial reasons, an establishment chooses an unsavory, unaccountable, informal waste contractor, there is a high probability that such waste (paid for and destined for landfill) could, in fact, be illegally dumped. Should any environmental damage and/or public nuisance result from such practice, the respective municipality can request a full cost recovery for any clean-up or remedial action required which might have to come from the tourism establishment itself.

Major benefits of dealing with an established waste removal service provider:

- Proof of safe disposal at an authorized landfill site by obtaining copies of the relevant disposal certificates as issued by the landfill site operator
- A monthly track record of the volumes of waste disposed of and the cost thereof
- Access to all required adequate and regularly serviced waste transportation vehicles. These need to be operated by staff who receive regular environmental training on how to handle possible incidents/spills e.g. as a result of an accident.

- A possible commitment to delivering an add-on high-level support to waste minimisation and recycling systems including the provision of a Pay as You Throw System and the recovery of recyclables for the largest possible variety of waste types.

Typical Environmental Savings:

Potentially harmful waste gets contained within a (lined) landfill site and does not pose a threat of pollution to unprotected surroundings including aquifers, wetlands, agricultural grounds etc.

Capital Costs:

No capital cost – just choose your waste service provider carefully and insist on a proven track record and adequate practical waste management experience. Ideally, the company should be part of a nationally recognized interest group or quality assurance association such as the Institute of Waste Management Southern Africa (IWMSA).

Typical Payback Period:

n/a

Possible Financial Implications of Waste Dumping:

Picking up dumped or littered waste can be up to 30 times more expensive than the cost for waste which is properly collected, transported and then landfilled.

Extensive costs for rehabilitation of contaminated land (e.g. bioremediation of waste oil or other hazardous wastes) can be legally imposed onto the original waste generator (in this case a hotel) and run into hundred of thousands of rands in addition to a possible penalty for negligence of the duty of care.

The image and reputation of a hotel can suffer greatly if such cases are made public, which is increasingly the case.



Did you know?

Cleaning up of littering alone costs the City of Johannesburg about R74-million a year while illegal dumping costs another R80-million

Prolific dumping of builders' rubble in urban areas is a major threat to remaining wetlands and open surface waterways. Fortunately, and due to increased resource demand in most larger cities, an increasing amount of clean builders rubble now gets crushed and processed to become secondary brick building material. Dumping of tyres contributes greatly to the population explosion of mosquitos who love to breed in any stagnant rainwater trapped within.