

Solid-waste management is the process of the collection, treatment, and disposal of solid material that is discarded because it has served its purpose or is no longer useful. The solid waste consists of various hazardous as well as non-hazardous wastes. Improper disposal of municipal solid waste can create unsanitary conditions, and these conditions in turn can lead to pollution of the environment and to outbreaks of vector-borne disease—that is, diseases spread by rodents and insects. The tasks of solid-waste management present complex technical challenges. They also pose a wide variety of administrative, economic, and social problems that must be managed and solved.

Solid waste management

- **Solid wastes can be easily categorized into five categories:**
 - 1. Municipal**
 - 2. Electronic**
 - 3. Biomedical**
 - 4. Industrial**
 - 5. Nuclear/Radioactive**

What are e-wastes?

- **Wastes of electronic or electrical goods that have completed their span of life or are of no utility to its consumer.**
- **China and India are one of the biggest importer of e-waste in the world.**
- **They are highly dangerous and toxic and should not disposed off with other solid wastes.**
- **The rate of production of e-waste per year is around 10%.**

Most of us lack the basic awareness of the toxic metals or chemical substances that are present in the devices we use in daily life. Gadgets such as computers, mobile phone or other electric devices which are making our life easier are in parallel creating a big mess when it comes to their disposal after use. It has been assumed that a single computer that is being used in daily life consists of around 1000 chemicals included brominated and chlorinated hydrocarbons.

What are the probable constituents of electronic devices?

- Chlorinated and brominated hydrocarbons
- Toxic Metals such as cadmium, mercury etc.
- Biologically active materials
- Acids and bases
- plastics and their additives

Most of the workers in industries based on manufacture of electronic devices are reported to develop skin and lung cancer with the passage of time which shows that how much their impact is on the body

Sources of e-wastes

- Every used electronic items can be considered as e-waste such as
- discarded cellphones, cameras,
- CD players, TVs, radios, drillers, fax machines,
- photocopiers, printers, toners, ink cartridges,
- batteries, re-chargeable batteries, digital calculators
- and clocks, CRT monitors, electric solders, computer
- mother boards, key board, industrial and house hold

- **electronic machinery such as oven, fridge, sewing & washing machines, fan, air-conditioner, grinder, iron,**
- **heater, military and laboratory electronic equipment's, etc.**

- **According to a report from USEPA, 1998 the average lifespan of the computers is decreasing. While it was around 4 to 6 years previously, it has now been certainly reduced to 2 to 3 years in recent times.**

- **Certainly with the growth of consumerism its been observed that companies are upgrading themselves and hence are creating an anxiety among the customers to stay updated and purchase more and more electronic devices.**