

Waste Generation and Management

Chapter 20: Waste Generation and Management · Topic 1

Key Concept

Waste can be classified as biodegradable (decomposes naturally) or non-biodegradable (doesn't decompose easily, like plastic).

The 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - form a hierarchy for managing waste, prioritising prevention and reuse before recycling.

Improper waste disposal can lead to pollution, health hazards, and environmental damage, affecting soil, water, and air quality.

Effective waste management, including composting, recycling programs, and safe landfill practices, helps protect the environment and public health.

Quick Revision Notes

- Waste can be biodegradable or non-biodegradable.
- Biodegradable waste decomposes naturally.
- Non-biodegradable waste, like plastic, doesn't decompose easily.
- The 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- This forms a waste management hierarchy.
- Improper disposal causes pollution and health hazards.
- It affects soil, water and air quality.
- Effective management includes composting and recycling.

Practice Questions

- 1 Classify five waste items as biodegradable or non-biodegradable.
- 2 Discuss the 3Rs of waste management.
- 3 Explain how composting works.
- 4 Research the effects of improper waste disposal.
- 5 Discuss a recycling program in your area.
- 6 Create a plan to reduce waste at home.