



SHORT COURSE ON SOLID WASTES  
COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

EMRO 0134

Lecture No.5

Damascus, 20 - 30 May 1968

Storage at Source

A. Introduction

Storage of solid wastes at source, rather an unusual subject.

"It is sometimes said that 'approved' methods for handling at source are not applicable in developing countries because of local customs, cost, etc." Is this statement true to some extent?

B. Need for sanitary storage at source

1. Goals of solid wastes disposal and in particular of storage at source :

- a. Health protection : control of flies, cockroaches and vermins, rats; preventing contact with cats, dogs, humans.
- b. Nuisance prevention : odors, unsightliness.

2. Characteristics of the storage depend on these goals, on the type of wastes (rubbish, garbage, etc.), on the system of collection, on the need not to overburden subsequent disposal steps.

Example : garbage containers should be in principle water tight receptacles, with tight-fitting covers. Size of container, etc.

3. Need and effectiveness of storage also dependent on other factors : general sanitation of premises, plumbing conditions, location of storage (dampness, etc).

4. Sources of solid wastes :

Dwellings (single family house, apartment building, etc.), hotels.

Restaurants, coffee-shops, shops (department stores).

Streets, street food-shops.

Institutions : schools, hospitals.

(Industry : slaughterhouses, etc.).

C. Examples of practice in some developed countries

1. A city consisting predominantly of villa or duplex houses and small (two or three stories) apartment buildings.

2. Cities with large apartment buildings.

D. Situation in the Region and developing countries

(Type of wastes, type of wastes collected, standardization of containers, etc.)

1. Dwellings in the modern parts of cities.

2. Dwellings in the older parts of cities, low-cost housing sections, etc. (hostelries for rural dwellers).

3. Others : restaurants, coffee-shops, streets, institutions.

4. Rural areas : homes and rural markets with abattoirs, road-side coffee-shops

E. General observations and conclusion

1. General observations

Evaluation of the statement in the introduction : cost is evidently a critical point. This may be the real reason for such a statement. However, the statement may be somewhat exaggerated and pessimistic, also unfair to the people as a whole. It is not that the situation cannot be improved, it is that not enough has been done so far to improve it.

2. Need for greater attention to this aspect of solid wastes disposal, specially by the Environmental Health services (evaluation, regulations, small scale trials when warranted, close supervision, public health information intended at all sectors of the population rather