

The Incredible Edible Landfill

To understand the design of high-tech landfills, construct an edible landfill!

Materials Needed:

- Pre-made pie crust in tin
- Graham crackers
- Shoestring licorice
- Fruit roll-ups
- Vanilla Pudding
- Chocolate Pudding
- Coarse graham cracker crumbs
- M&M candies (and/or nuts)
- Coconut
- Green food coloring

Directions:

- 1** Use graham cracker crust in pie pan to represent the clay soil. Clay soils provide a watertight base.
- 2** Line the crust with fruit roll-ups. These represent a high density plastic used to line the bottom for added protection.
- 3** Add licorice to represent leaching tubes. These pipes are used to collect leachate that has percolated through the trash and channels it to a treatment center.
- 4** Cover the licorice with graham cracker crumbs. This simulates gravel used to percolate liquids up through the tubes.
- 5** Next comes the garbage and trash. Use a mixture of vanilla pudding, M&Ms and nuts (or use your own imagination) to depict this.
- 6** Add chocolate pudding to represent soil. This is often done on a daily basis to eliminate odors and discourage scavengers.
- 7** (Dye coconut with green food coloring). Top off your creation with green coconut. This simulates the sowing of a grass cover to prevent erosion.
- 8** Eat your creation!