



Contamination and remediation

Contamination is now regarded worldwide as an immediate threat to the health of society, the environment, and global, national and local economies. Australia has well over 100,000 contaminated sites, and Asia an estimated 5 million. The present cost of clean-up to Australia is estimated at well over \$5 billion.

Remediation is the act of 'cleaning up' and/or containing contaminants so as to minimise their impact on human health and the environment.

The process of 'cleaning up' contaminants can involve any of the following:

- removing the contaminated material to a safe site such as a registered landfill or tip
- treating the contamination on site to breakdown the contaminants to safer byproducts
- treating the contaminants on site to contain them so they pose little risk
- treating the contaminated material offsite at a special treatment centre to breakdown the contaminants to safer byproducts
- allowing the contaminants to naturally degrade (not always possible or practical even when the process is accelerated)
- a combination of the above.

For more information, browse through the links at <http://www.remediationaustralasia.com.au/index.php?q=remediation>