

Landfill Compactor sales turn garbage into gold for Empire

Most of the machines Cat builds enjoy a certain mystique. Kids all over the world grow up dreaming of sitting at the controls of a monster piece of big yellow iron and pushing around tons of rock and dirt. Toy dozers, graders, haul trucks and excavators have always been big sellers.

But you won't see many kids playing with toy landfill compactors. Powerful machines working in the dirt are sexy, but powerful machines wallowing in a sea of garbage just don't have the same panache.

Landfills may not be what the average person envisions when you mention Cat equipment, but landfills are some of Empire's best customers. Even a small landfill will usually need at least one track-type tractor to push the garbage into piles, a compactor to squash those piles down, a scraper to cover the squashed piles with dirt, and a motor grader to smooth the dirt. Larger landfills can have dozens of machines.

Because of the brutal work environment, those machines tend to need plenty of maintenance. Landfills have always been quick to recognize the benefits of maintenance contracts, and Empire has Customer Service Agreements (CSAs) with a number of landfills in our territory.

It's possible to run a landfill without a compactor, but it wouldn't be a profitable landfill. Efficient use of land is the key to making money in the landfill business. Land costs money to acquire and more money to prepare, so it's crucial for landfills to pack as much garbage as possible into each cell.

Nothing else can do that job like a compactor. You can run a D8R back and forth

on a 10-foot pile of garbage all day without seeing much of a change, but make a couple of passes with an 826G, and you'll have a 3-foot pile of garbage.

In March, Empire Transport delivered a shiny new 826G to the Grey Wolf Landfill a few miles east of Dewey, Arizona. The landfill belongs to Waste Management and serves the Prescott/Sedona area. The 826G didn't stay shiny and new for long, but we did manage to snap a few photos while it was still looking good.



It didn't take long for the new 826G at Grey Wolf Landfill to get into the trash.



The D7R at Grey Wolf does a great job moving trash, but it's no good as a compactor.

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