

APPARATUS AND METHOD OF SEPARATING SMALL RUBBISH AND ORGANIC MATTERS FROM GARBAGE FOR COLLECTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to garbage disposal and more particularly to an apparatus and method of rapidly, effectively separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection.

2. Description of Related Art

10 As to garbage disposal, typically there are techniques, i.e., landfill and burning, widely used throughout the world. Many precious lands are used for landfill as more garbage is generated everyday. Underground water and soil may be polluted by buried garbage if an appropriate disposal is not done. As to burning, it can cause severe air pollution if smoke generated during burning is
15 not well processed prior to discharge. As to generated ashes, they are buried after being generated. Hence, the problem of polluting underground water and soil still exists. Further, it is often that residents violently protest a garbage disposal site to be established in their neighborhood because they think it may degrade their living quality once established. Furthermore, the cost of disposing
20 garbage is increased significantly as less land being available for landfill.

Resources on earth begin to deplete in recent years. Hence, more and more people are aware of the importance of resource recycling by actively cooperating with the resource recycling policy. It is desired that amount of garbage can be reduced significantly in a near future by successfully recycling resources in order
25 to prolong a useful time of land for burying garbage and preserve limited resources on earth. However, the typical resource recycling (i.e., garbage recycling) techniques are unsatisfactory now. For example, a satisfactory

garbage classification is not possible by the typical resource recycling techniques mainly because a wide variety of different materials are contained in garbage. The materials comprise toxic, nontoxic, large, small, dry, wet, soft, hard, light, and heavy ones. Hence, an effective classification among such materials is impossible by a known mechanical device. More often that a manual garbage classification is done. For example, encourage people to classify garbage or require cleaning employees to do the garbage classification after collection. In view of the above, the conventional garbage classification technique is tedious and low in efficiency. Moreover, the cleaning employees are susceptible of contracting diseases or being poisoned by contaminants or toxic materials contained in garbage. Hence, a need for improvement exists.

Thus, it is desirable to provide a novel apparatus and method of effectively separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection by means of water in order to overcome the above drawbacks of the prior art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and method of automatically, effectively separating floated rubbish, organic matters, and sunk rubbish from garbage for collection.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and method of separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection while performing an initial cleaning.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and method of separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection while diluting toxic materials in garbage.

To attain the above mentioned objects and advantages, the method of comprising the steps of:

sifting out small rubbish and organic matters by pouring the garbage mixed with water into screen means, passing organic matters and small rubbish through the screen means to direct to a less inclined channel, and pushing the garbage not sifted and stayed on the screen means to a next stage for processing by spraying water from injection nozzle means under the screen means;

directing the sifted small rubbish and organic matters mixed with water to a less inclined channel;

collecting sunk small rubbish by directing sand and the sunk small rubbish to a V-shaped trough in a bottom of the less inclined channel and discharging sand and the sunk small rubbish out of the less inclined channel for collection via a drain pipe;

collecting floated rubbish on the less inclined channel by transporting the floated rubbish on the less inclined channel to a floated rubbish collection container for collection by an inclined conveyor having a lower portion sunk in water in the less inclined channel; and

sifting out the organic matters in water by directing water contained organic matters in the less inclined channel to an organic matter screen for sifting out the organic matters and passing water through the organic matter screen for purification.

Preferably, the step of sifting out small rubbish and organic matters comprises the sub-steps of:

fine sifting by pouring the garbage mixed with water into a first conveyor screen having a plurality of meshed openings of about 4cm to about 6cm, passing fine organic matters and tiny rubbish in the garbage through the first conveyor screen to direct to the less inclined channel, and pushing the garbage not sifted out of the first conveyor screen by spraying water from the injection nozzle means under the first conveyor screen; and

coarse sifting by pushing the garbage mixed with water from the first conveyor screen to fall on a conveyor second conveyor screen having a plurality of meshed openings of about 6cm to about 8cm and passing coarse organic matters and small rubbish having a size less than about 6cm to about 8cm in the
5 garbage through the second conveyor screen to direct to the less inclined channel.

Preferably, the apparatus of the invention comprising:

a feed chute capable of moving in a vertical direction;

a screen assembly below an outlet of the feed chute, the screen assembly
10 including a first waterway at a bottom side;

a less inclined channel outside the screen assembly, and coupled to the first waterway, a junction of the less inclined channel and the first waterway being at a highest position of the less inclined channel, the less inclined channel including an outlet at the other lowest end thereof, a much less inclined section at an
15 intermediate portion thereof, a V-shaped trough in a bottom thereof, and a drain pipe at a bottom of the V-shaped trough for discharging sand and small rubbish sunk in the V-shaped trough;

an upward inclined conveyor above the much less inclined section between the V-shaped trough and the outlet of the less inclined channel, the conveyor
20 having a lower portion sunk in water in the much less inclined section;

an organic matter screen below the outlet of the less inclined channel; and

a floated rubbish collection container for collecting floated rubbish sent from the floated rubbish collection container.

Preferably, the apparatus of the invention further comprises:

25 a first conveyor screen below and extended outward from the outlet of the feed chute, the first conveyor screen including a plurality of meshed openings and a bottom coupled to the first waterway;

a tray below and extended outward from the first conveyor screen;

a plurality of first injection nozzles under the first conveyor screen for obliquely spraying water toward surfaces of the first conveyor screen and the tray;

5 a second conveyor screen below and extended outward from the tray, the second conveyor screen having a plurality of meshed openings equal to or larger than that of the first conveyor screen; and

a second waterway at a bottom side of the second conveyor screen coupled to the less inclined channel.

10 Preferably, the tray is substantially shaped as a rectangle and comprises two side walls, an outlet between the side walls and distal from the first conveyor screen, and an upward inclined edge at the outlet thereof, the upward inclined edge being adapted to slow a flow of the garbage through the outlet of the tray.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present
15 invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a flow chart showing a sequence of method steps performed by an
20 apparatus according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the apparatus according to the invention;

FIG. 2A is a schematic perspective view of another preferred embodiment of the apparatus according to the invention;

25 FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view schematically illustrating the garbage disposal flow performed by the apparatus according to the invention; and

FIG. 4 is a top plan view schematically illustrating the garbage disposal flow

shown in FIG. 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

First mix garbage with water. Next, separate heavy garbage (i.e., garbage
5 sunk in water) from garbage. A sequence of method steps are then performed by
an apparatus of separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for
collection in accordance with the invention as referring to FIG. 1.

In step 1, sift out small rubbish and organic matters. In detail, pour garbage
mixed with water into a first conveyor screen having a plurality of meshed
10 openings of about 4cm to about 6cm. As such, fine organic matters and tiny
rubbish are able to pass through the first conveyor screen to direct to a first
waterway. The garbage not sifted is stayed on the first conveyor screen and is
immediately pushed to a conveyor second conveyor screen having a plurality of
meshed openings of about 6cm to about 8cm by water sprayed from a plurality of
15 first injection nozzles under the first conveyor screen. The garbage mixed with
water arrived at the second conveyor screen will cause coarse organic matters
and small rubbish having a size less than about 6cm to about 8cm thereof to
pass through the second conveyor screen to direct to a second waterway. The
garbage not sifted is stayed on the second conveyor screen and is immediately
20 pushed to a next stage for processing by water sprayed from a plurality of
second injection nozzles under the second conveyor screen.

In step 2, direct the sifted small rubbish, tiny rubbish, and organic matters
mixed with water to a less inclined channel via the first and second waterways.

In step 3, collect sunk small rubbish. In detail, direct sand and sunk small
25 rubbish to a V-shaped trough in a bottom of the less inclined channel. The sand
and sunk small rubbish are then discharged out of the less inclined channel for
collection via a drain pipe.

In step 4, collect floated rubbish on the less inclined channel. In detail, transport the floated rubbish on the less inclined channel to a floated rubbish collection container for collection by an inclined conveyor having a lower portion sunk in water in the much less inclined section.

- 5 In step 5, sift out organic matters in water. In detail, direct water contained organic matters of garbage in the less inclined channel to an organic matter screen in which organic matters will be sifted out by the organic matter screen and water will pass through the organic matter screen for purification. This completes the process of separating small rubbish and organic matters from
10 garbage for collection.

Referring to FIGS. 2, 3, and 4, the apparatus of separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection of the invention is shown. The apparatus comprises a feed chute 10, a screen assembly 20, an inclined channel 30, an organic matter screen 40, a revolving vane shaft 50, a first transversal
15 conveyor 60, and a waterway 70. The feed chute 10 is capable of moving in a vertical direction, and has a section of U and the screen assembly 20 is below an outlet of the feed chute 10. The screen assembly 20 comprises a first conveyor screen 21 below and extended outward from the outlet of the feed chute 10. The first conveyor screen 21 having a plurality of meshed openings of about 4cm to
20 about 6cm so that fine organic matters and tiny rubbish in garbage are able to pass through to direct to a first waterway 22. The garbage not sifted is stayed on the first conveyor screen 21, a tray 23 below and extended outward from the first conveyor screen 21, the tray 23 being rectangular and having two side walls, an outlet between the side walls and distal from the first conveyor screen 21, and an
25 upward inclined edge 230 at the outlet of the tray 23, the upward inclined edge 230 being adapted to slow the flow of garbage through the outlet of the tray 23, a plurality of first injection nozzles 210 under the first conveyor screen 21 for

obliquely spraying water toward surfaces of the first conveyor screen 21 and the tray 23, and a second conveyor screen 24 below and extended outward from the tray 23, the second conveyor screen 24 having a plurality of meshed openings of about 6cm to about 8cm so as to cause coarse organic matters and small rubbish having a size less than about 6cm to about 8cm in garbage and water to pass through to direct to a second waterway 25, a plurality of second injection nozzles 240 under the second conveyor screen 24 for obliquely spraying water toward surfaces of the second conveyor screen 24, and the second conveyor screen 24 below and extended outward from the first and second waterways 22, 25 being coupled to a less inclined channel 30 outside the screen assembly 20, a junction of the less inclined channel 30 and the first waterway 22 being at a highest position of the less inclined channel 30 while an outlet 31 being located at the other lowest end of the less inclined channel 30. The first transversal conveyor 60 is adapted to transport garbage sent from the second conveyor screen 24 to a next stage as detailed later. The waterway 70 is beneath both the second conveyor screen 24 and the first transversal conveyor 60. A baffle (not shown) above the first transversal conveyor 60 is adapted to deflect the coarse organic matters and small rubbish garbage blown from the second conveyor screen 24 onto the first transversal conveyor 60, and the revolving vane shaft 50 includes a plurality of equally spaced apart, arcuate, and axial revolving vanes on its outer surface. The shaft 50 can rotate clockwise (see FIG. 3). A gap S of about 3cm to about 10cm is formed between one end of the second conveyor screen 24 and the outermost point of the vane. Also, the gap S is adjustable depending on the property of rubbish garbage.

The organic matter screen 40 is formed below the outlet 31 of the less inclined channel 30, the organic matter screen 40 is formed of a nylon net and has about 200 to about 400 meshed openings. That is, the organic matter screen

40 has very small meshed openings. A much less inclined section 32 is formed at an intermediate portion of the less inclined channel 30. A V-shaped trough 33 is formed in a bottom of the less inclined channel 30. The V-shaped trough 33 has a bottom drain pipe 330 (see FIG. 3) for discharging sand and small rubbish sunk in the V-shaped trough 33. An upward inclined conveyor 34 is formed above the much less inclined section 32 of the less inclined channel 30 between the V-shaped trough 33 and the outlet 31. The conveyor 34 has a lower portion sunk in water in the much less inclined section 32 of the less inclined channel 30 and an upper portion right above a second transversal conveyor 341 to convey rubbish into a floated rubbish collection container 340.

An operation of the invention will now be described in detail below. First, mix garbage with water. Next, remove heavy materials out of the garbage. Next, adjust a height difference between the feed chute 10 and the first conveyor screen 21 to an optimum based on amount of organic matters in the garbage. For example, the feed chute 10 can be adjusted to a higher place for increasing the speed of water flow and the downward momentum of water if the amount of organic matters in the garbage is larger. As a result, the organic matters and small rubbish in garbage will have increased force to pass through the first conveyor screen 21. Next, pour the garbage mixed with water into the first conveyor screen 21. As such, fine organic matters and tiny rubbish in garbage are able to pass through the first conveyor screen 21 to direct to the less inclined channel 30 via the first waterway 22. The garbage not sifted is stayed on the first conveyor screen 21 and is immediately pushed to the tray 23 by water obliquely sprayed from the first injection nozzles 210 under the first conveyor screen 21. The garbage on the tray 23 will be sequentially pushed to fall onto the second conveyor screen 24 due to the provision of the upward inclined edge 230 at the outlet of the tray 23. This can avoid a garbage accumulation on the tray 23. The

garbage mixed with water arrived at the second conveyor screen 24 will cause coarse organic matters and small rubbish having a size less than about 6cm to about 8cm thereof to pass through the second conveyor screen 24 to direct to the less inclined channel 30 via the second waterway 25. The garbage not sifted
5 is stayed on the second conveyor screen 24 and is immediately pushed to a next stage for processing by water obliquely upward sprayed from a plurality of second injection nozzles 240 under the second conveyor screen 24. Note that the processing of garbage fed from the second conveyor screen 24 at the next stage is not pertinent to the invention. Thus a detailed description thereof is
10 omitted herein for the sake of brevity.

Subsequently, the sifted small rubbish, tiny rubbish, and organic matters mixed with water continue to flow to the much less inclined section 32 of the less inclined channel 30 after passing the first and second waterways 22, 25. At the much less inclined section 32, sand and small articles such as cigarette lighters,
15 absorbent cotton, etc. are deposited into the V-shaped trough 33 in the bottom of the less inclined channel 30 due to slow water flow. The sand and sunk small rubbish are then discharged out of the less inclined channel 30 for further processing via the drain pipe 330 (see FIG. 3). Moreover, floated rubbish and other organic matters mixed in water at the less inclined channel 30 continue to
20 flow toward the outlet 31 of the less inclined channel 30. Also, the conveyor 34 is activated to transport the floated rubbish on the less inclined channel 30 to the floated rubbish collection container 340 through the second transversal conveyor 341 for collection. At this time, materials in garbage remained at the less inclined channel 30 are organic matters mixed with water. The garbage flow containing
25 organic matters continues to flow to the outlet 31 of the less inclined channel 30 prior to falling on the organic matter screen 40. The organic matters in garbage will be sifted out by the organic matter screen 40 having about 200 to about 400

meshed openings. There will be no accumulation of garbage on the organic matter screen 40 since the organic matter screen 40 is formed of nylon having a smooth surface (i.e., not sticky). Hence, the apparatus of the invention can collect almost all visible articles in garbage except very tiny ones such as oily materials, starch, etc. Finally, oily materials, starch, water, etc. are discharged to a next stage for purification processing.

Referring to FIGS. 2A, the apparatus of separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection of another preferred embodiment of the invention is shown. The construction of this preferred embodiment is substantially the same as the above preferred embodiment. Thus the same components are designated with the same numerals and the detailed description thereof is omitted herein for the sake of brevity. The differences between the above and the preferred embodiments, i.e., the characteristics of the apparatus comprises inner transversal channels 22A and 25A are formed under the first and second conveyor screens 21 and 24, respectively, wherein a first and third transversal conveyors 22B and 25B are provided therein, respectively. As viewed from the Fig.2A, the inner portion of transversal conveyors 22B and 25B are located under the first and second conveyor screens 21 and 24, respectively and the outer portion thereof are induced into the much less inclined section 32 of the less inclined channel 30. The first and second revolving vane shafts 21B and 24B and second and fourth transversal conveyors 22C and 25C are further provided in rear of conveyor screens 21 and 24, respectively for further obtaining a completion classified garbage. In addition, in the waterway 70 further provided an inclined conveyor 61 having a lower portion sunk in waterway 70 and an upper portion right above a fifth transversal conveyor 60 to a next stage for purification processing.

The benefits of the invention include (1) providing a novel and unique

garbage disposal implementation of rapidly, effectively, conveniently, and precisely separating floated rubbish, organic matters, and sunk rubbish from garbage for collection by means of water without involving a manual operation; (2) performing an initial cleaning of garbage by means of water while classifying garbage for facilitating a subsequent garbage recycling; (3) diluting toxic materials in garbage by means of water while classifying garbage for reducing a possibility of contracting diseases; and (4) providing an apparatus capable of effectively, rapidly, and precisely separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection.

10 While the invention herein disclosed has been described by means of specific embodiments, numerous modifications and variations could be made thereto by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention set forth in the claims.

fine sifting by pouring the garbage mixed with water into a first conveyor screen having a plurality of meshed openings of about 4cm to about 6cm, passing fine organic matters and tiny rubbish in the garbage through the first conveyor screen to direct to the less inclined channel, and pushing the garbage not sifted out of the first conveyor screen by spraying water from the injection nozzle means under the first conveyor screen; and

coarse sifting by pushing the garbage mixed with water from the first conveyor screen to fall on a conveyor second conveyor screen having a plurality of meshed openings of about 6cm to about 8cm and passing coarse organic matters and small rubbish having a size less than about 6cm to about 8cm in the garbage through the second conveyor screen to direct to the less inclined channel.

3. An apparatus of separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage for collection comprising:

a feed chute capable of moving in a vertical direction;

a screen assembly below an outlet of the feed chute, the screen assembly including a first waterway at a bottom side;

an inclined channel outside the screen assembly, and coupled to the first waterway, a junction of the inclined channel and the first waterway being at a highest position of the less inclined channel, the inclined channel including an outlet at the other lowest end thereof,

an organic matter screen below the outlet of the less inclined channel; and

a floated rubbish collection container for collecting floated rubbish sent from the floated rubbish collection container.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the feed chute has a section of U.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the trough is V-shaped.
6. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the screen assembly further comprises:
a first conveyor screen below and extended outward from the outlet of the
5 feed chute, the first conveyor screen including a plurality of meshed openings
and a bottom coupled to the first waterway;
a tray below and extended outward from the first conveyor screen;
a plurality of first injection nozzles under the first conveyor screen for
obliquely spraying water toward surfaces of the first conveyor screen and the
10 tray;
a second conveyor screen below and extended outward from the tray, the
second conveyor screen having a plurality of meshed openings equal to or larger
than that of the first conveyor screen; and
a second waterway at a bottom side of the second conveyor screen coupled
15 to the less inclined channel.
7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the tray is substantially shaped as a
rectangle and comprises two side walls, an outlet between the side walls and
distal from the first conveyor screen, and an upward inclined edge at the outlet
20 thereof, the upward inclined edge being adapted to slow a flow of the garbage
through the outlet of the tray.
8. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the meshed opening of the first conveyor
screen is about 4cm to about 6cm.
- 25 9. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the meshed opening of the second
conveyor screen is about 6cm to about 8cm.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of separating small rubbish and organic matters from garbage mixed with water and with heavy materials removed therefrom comprising the
5 steps of:

sifting out small rubbish and organic matters by pouring the garbage mixed with water into screen means, passing organic matters and small rubbish through the screen means to direct to a less inclined channel, and pushing the garbage not sifted and stayed on the screen means to a next stage for processing by
10 spraying water from injection nozzle means under the screen means;

directing the sifted small rubbish and organic matters mixed with water to a less inclined channel;

- collecting sunk small rubbish by directing sand and the sunk small rubbish to a trough means in a bottom of the less inclined channel and discharging sand
15 and the sunk small rubbish out of the less inclined channel for collection via a drain pipe;

- collecting floated rubbish on the less inclined channel by transporting the floated rubbish on the less inclined channel to a floated rubbish collection container for collection by an inclined conveyor having a lower portion sunk in
20 water in the less inclined channel; and

- sifting out the organic matters in water by directing water contained organic matters in the less inclined channel to an organic matter screen for sifting out the organic matters and passing water through the organic matter screen for purification.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sifting out small rubbish and organic matters comprises the sub-steps of:

10. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the organic matter screen is formed of nylon net and has about 200 to about 400 meshed openings.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a much less inclined section at
5 an intermediate portion thereof, a trough in a bottom thereof, and a drain pipe at a bottom of the trough for discharging sand and small rubbish sunk in the trough.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an upward inclined conveyor above the much less inclined section between the V-shaped trough and the
10 outlet of the less inclined channel, the conveyor having a lower portion sunk in water in the much less inclined section.

13. The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising one of the first and second conveyor screens installed with an inner channel thereunder wherein at least one
15 transversal conveyor is provided therein.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a revolving vane shaft disposed in the rear of one of the first and second conveyor screens.