



Calvert County Environmental Commission

Landfills

1. What is a landfill?

Modern landfills are well-engineered and managed facilities for the disposal of solid waste. Landfills are located, designed, operated and monitored to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. They are also designed to protect the environment from contaminants, which may be present in the waste stream. Landfills cannot be built in environmentally-sensitive areas, and they are placed using on-site environmental monitoring systems. These monitoring systems check for any sign of groundwater contamination and for landfill gas, as well as provide additional safeguards. Today's landfills must meet stringent design, operation and closure requirements established under the [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act \(RCRA\)](#).

Disposing of waste in landfills is one part of an integrated waste management system. The [waste management hierarchy](#) - favoring source reduction to reduce both the volume and toxicity of waste and to increase the useful life of manufactured products – should be considered when designing waste management systems.

2. What are the types of landfills?

- [Municipal Solid Waste Landfills \(MSWLFs\)](#) – Specifically designed to receive household waste, as well as other types of non-hazardous wastes. MSWLFs can also receive household appliances (i.e. white goods) that are no longer needed. Some of these appliances, such as old refrigerators or window air conditioners, rely on ozone-depleting refrigerants and their substitutes. MSWLFs follow the federal disposal procedures for household appliances that use refrigerants.

- [Hazardous Waste Landfills](#) - Facilities used specifically for the disposal of hazardous waste. These landfills are used for the disposal of items banned from disposal in MSWLFs, including common household items like solvent-based paints, some cleaners/chemicals, certain types of batteries, and pesticides. Leftover portions of these products are called household hazardous waste. These products, if mishandled, can be dangerous to your health and the environment.

- [Construction and Demolition \(C&D\) Debris Landfills](#) – A type of industrial waste landfill designed exclusively for construction and demolition materials, which consists of the debris generated during the construction, renovation and demolition of buildings, roads and bridges. C&D materials often contain bulky, heavy materials, such as concrete, wood, metals, glass and salvaged building components.

Note that water-based paints can be disposed of a County Convenience Centers as long as the paint is solidified. Kitty litter is commonly used to dry-out unwanted water-based paint prior to disposal.

When/Where is the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day?

All Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine. Proof of Calvert County residency is required (such as a driver's license). Commercial haulers,

businesses or institutions are not permitted to participate. The date and location of the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day can be found at the link below.

[County Resident Household Hazardous Waste | Calvert County, MD - Official Website](#)

When is the next County Resident Paper Shredding Event?

The Division of Solid Waste sponsors free Paper Shredding Events for Calvert County residents to shred confidential or sensitive documents. Papers from businesses will not be accepted.

Proof of Calvert County residency is required at events. Certificates of destruction are available upon request. More information and date and locations of paper shredding events can be found at the link below.

[County Resident Paper Shredding Events | Calvert County, MD - Official Website](#)

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