



# Calvert County Environmental Commission

## ELECTRONIC WASTE (eWaste) DISPOSAL

### 1. *Should I dispose of old or broken electronics with normal trash?*

No. Electronic devices may contain toxic chemicals (e.g., chromium, lead, mercury, lithium, arsenic), so they should not go to landfills where the toxic chemicals might migrate into soil and groundwater. Instead, electronic waste (“eWaste”) should be recycled when possible.

Calvert County’s Department of Public Works offers electronic recycling at all Convenience Centers, just look for eWaste recycling containers. Addresses and operating hours of Calvert’s Convenience Centers are listed on page 4 of the [County Recycling Guide](#).

### 2. *Which electronic wastes should be recycled?*

The following types of electronic waste can and should be recycled in Calvert County’s “Electronics” containers:

- Computers: laptops, desktops
- Computer Accessories: keyboards, mice, memory sticks, CD-ROM drives
- Displays: CRT televisions, flat screen televisions, computer monitors
- Audio-Visual Equipment: cable boxes, DVD players, projectors, cameras, stereo systems, 2-way radios, MP3 players
- Networking Equipment: servers, switches, routers
- Electronic toys and gaming systems
- E-bikes and e-scooter parts
- Printers: desktop printers, floor copiers, fax machines, scanners

The following items are recycled in individualized bins:



Printer cartridges (laser and inkjet) should be placed in designated bins at Convenience Centers.



Cables: while acceptable in e-waste, it is more profitable if cables are recycled with metal recycling.



Cellphones and other mobile devices (tablets, e-readers) should be placed in cellphone recycling bins located at all convenience centers.



### Batteries



- Lithium-ion batteries (i.e., lithium batteries that are rechargeable) should ***only*** be placed in designated bins at Convenience Centers. Poorly-produced lithium-ion batteries pose a fire risk; therefore, recycling facilities may reject our recycling if these batteries are included in the shipment.

- Single-use alkaline batteries may be recycled at Convenience Centers in their designated collection bins.
- Automotive and marine 6- to 24-volt lead-acid batteries should be placed in designated bins at Convenience Centers.

3. *What happens to the eWaste that we take to the Convenience Centers?*

eWaste is typically stored in 40-cubic-yard enclosed boxes until they are brought to the Appeal Municipal Landfill for sorting and loading into trailers. Once the trailer is full, it is shipped to our vendor, currently PC Recycler, for processing. Their recycling process is as follows:

1. Once the eWaste is received, it is inventoried.
2. Company labels and asset tags are removed, and data destruction is performed on all hard drives and other media.
3. eWaste is separated by working and non-working condition.
4. Non-working equipment is sent to down-line vendors for further recycling. Working equipment is remarketed or donated to charity.

Recycling is an evolving market! Check with the [Department of Public Works'—Solid Waste Division website](#) for the latest updates. Finally, check out [Calvert County's Recycling Guide](#) for further guidance!

This document was written by the Environmental Commission for informational purposes only and is not official Calvert County policy.