



Calvert County Environmental Commission

LEAF AND YARD DEBRIS BURNING

Is it legal to burn leaves and yard debris in Calvert County?

Yes, though a burning permit is required from the Environmental Health Division for any open air burning. Permits cost \$10.00 and are available [here](#). No burning permits are issued between June 1st through August 31st to protect air quality. Open burning is subject to regulations by the MD Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service, which can be found [here](#). These regulations are intended to prevent forest fires and protect our air quality.

What are the alternatives to burning leaves and yard debris in the county?

Leaves, bushes, shrubs, trees, and tree limbs can be taken to the Appeal Landfill located at 401 Sweetwater Road in Lusby where the County composts these materials. Trees and branches can be no longer than six feet. There is a charge for recycling yard debris, calculated by weight.

Painted, stained, or pressure-treated wood and furniture cannot be recycled at the landfill, but can be disposed for a fee, calculated by weight.

Real Christmas trees can be dropped off [at all convenience centers](#) free of charge from December 26th through January 31st. Decorations, stands, metal frames and lights must be removed. Do not place trees and wreaths in plastic bags. Some local businesses, such as [Chesapeake's Bounty](#), also accept Christmas trees as feed for their goats and alpacas.

Can I compost my leaves and yard debris?

Certainly. The County's Solid Waste Division has included easy-to-follow directions for building a compost pile in its [Calvert County Recycling Guide](#). In addition, the Environmental Commission has issued an FAQ on composting.