

Maryland

Contact Information

Shannon McDonald
Waste Diversion Division, Director
Maryland Department of the Environment
(410) 537-3143

State Policy Snapshot

Maryland's solid waste and recycling policy framework includes product bans on expanded polystyrene food service products and certain toxics; multiple producer responsibility and stewardship programs; a producer responsibility law for packaging and paper products; mandatory recycling rate requirements for political jurisdictions; food residual diversion requirements; disposal bans for specific materials; recycling market development provisions; recycled-content related provisions for specific materials; and sustainable materials management goals established through statute and executive order.

Product Bans

Overview: Maryland bans expanded polystyrene food service products and has statutory provisions addressing certain toxic materials.

Product / Material	Description of Ban	Statute / Program Link
<i>Expanded polystyrene food service products</i>	Ban on expanded polystyrene food service products.	https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen&section=9-2201&enactments=false https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/Expanded-Polystyrene-Food-Service-Products-Ban.aspx
<i>Toxics</i>	Statutory provisions related to toxics.	https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen&section=9-1902&enactments=False&archived=False

Product Stewardship

Overview: Maryland's product stewardship programs include packaging and electronics, which are producer-funded. A consumer-fee paint program is administered through PaintCare, and its tire program uses a consumer eco-fee (\$1.00 per tire).

<i>Material Category</i>	Producer-Funded	Consumer / Eco Fee	Both	Other	None
<i>Beverage Containers</i>	✓				
<i>Boat Wrap</i>					✓
<i>Carpet</i>					✓
<i>Cell Phones</i>					✓
<i>Electric Vehicle Batteries</i>					✓
<i>Electronics</i>	✓				
<i>Fluorescent Lighting</i>				✓	
<i>Gas Cylinders</i>				✓	
<i>Household Hazardous Waste</i>					✓
<i>Mattresses</i>					✓
<i>Mercury Switches</i>				✓	
<i>Mercury Thermostats</i>				✓	
<i>Packaging</i>	✓				
<i>Paint</i>		✓			
<i>Pesticide Containers</i>					✓
<i>Pharma</i>					✓
<i>Rechargeable Batteries (including alkaline)</i>				✓	
<i>Sharps</i>					✓
<i>Solar Panels</i>					✓
<i>Textiles</i>					✓

Material Category	Producer-Funded	Consumer / Eco Fee	Both	Other	None
<i>Tires</i>		✓			

Producer-Funded: Program in which manufacturers or producers are responsible for financing and/or operating collection, recycling, or disposal of the product or material. Consumer / Eco Fee: Program funded in whole or in part through fees paid by consumers at the point of sale or disposal, such as advance recycling fees, eco-fees, or deposits. Both: Program that includes a combination of producer funding and consumer or eco-fees. Other: Any other active program or regulatory approach not captured in the categories above (e.g., take-back requirements, labeling, disclosure, recyclability standards). None: No statewide producer responsibility, consumer fee, or comparable program in place for the product or material.

Program Details:

Product / Material	Description	Program	Statute / Program Link
<i>Batteries</i>	State rules and reporting requirements associated with batteries can be found in the Environmental Article §6-1101 through §6-1114. The Maryland Department of the Environment recognizes that some battery chemistry information may be dated.	Other	Environmental Article §6-1101-1114
<i>E-waste, Paint, Packaging & Paper Products</i>	Information is available through Maryland Department of the Environment Producer Responsibility page. Paint Stewardship program plan is funded through consumer fees and is based on container size.	Consumer / Eco Fee	https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/WasteManagement/Pages/ProducerResponsibility.aspx Maryland fee structure for Paint Stewardship: https://www.paintcare.org/maryland-program-plan-and-fee-structure/
<i>Gas Cylinders</i>	Being evaluated under Environment Article § 9-2501-2512, Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products.	Other	Environment Article § 9-2501-2512

Product / Material	Description	Program	Statute / Program Link
<i>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</i>	Defined in Annotated Code of Maryland, Environment Article § 9-1801. HHW includes waste derived from a household that would be listed as hazardous under RCRA but for the household exemption. Examples include agricultural chemicals, cleaning agents and solvents, paint, pesticides, and preservatives.	None (Architectural paint is managed through EPR)	Environment Article § 9-1801 https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/and/WasteManagement/Pages/HazardousWaste.aspx
<i>Mercury</i>	Information regarding mercury management.	Other	https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/and/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/mercuryhome.aspx
<i>Tires</i>	When you buy a new tire in Maryland, you will pay a \$1.00 fee as of January 1, 2026, which funds the scrap tire program (previously \$0.80). In 1991, the Scrap Tire Recycling Act was passed, which established a mechanism for the cleanup of scrap tire stockpiles and for the collection, transportation, and recycling or processing of the more than 6 million scrap tires that are generated annually in Maryland.	Consumer / Eco Fee	https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/and/WasteManagement/Pages/ScrapTires.aspx

Additional Clarification (from survey response):

The e-waste law is not wholly encompassing EPR law. There is a reduced registration fee if manufacturers offer a free take-back program to consumers. There is no requirement that they provide this service, only a registration discount if they do.

Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Overview: Maryland's post-consumer recycled content requirements are embedded in its Packaging and Paper Products Producer Responsibility program; specific PCR performance goals are to be established through future rulemaking and are not currently specified directly in statute.

Product / Material	Requirement	Statute / Program Link
<i>Covered materials under Packaging & Paper Products PR</i>	Environmental Article §9-2505 requires a producer responsibility plan to identify performance goals for covered materials, including “the percentage of postconsumer recycled content that covered materials are required to contain,” including overall percentages, excluding compostable materials that cannot contain PCR due to chemical, physical, health, or safety constraints.	Environmental Article §9-2505

The survey response noted that this may become a requirement through rulemaking respective to eco-modulation factors, but it is not currently specified directly in statute.

Mandatory Recycling Requirements

Overview: Maryland has recycling rate requirements and food residual diversion requirements.

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute / Program Link
<i>Food Residual Diversion Law</i>	Requires certain entities to divert food residuals. Diversion is required; recycling is one option for diversion.	https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/laws/StatuteText?article=gen&section=9-1724.1&enactments=False&archived=False

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute / Program Link
<i>Maryland Recycling Act</i>	Political jurisdictions must meet certain recycling rates based on population (not by material category).	https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen&section=9-1704&enactments=False&archived=False

Disposal Bans

Overview: Materials banned from disposal in a solid waste acceptance facility in accordance with applicable MDE Solid Waste permits.

Material	Disposal Restriction	Statute / Program Link
<i>Animal carcasses (medical research/diseased animals)</i>	Banned unless ordered accepted by local county health officer and covered immediately upon deposition.	(Permit-based; no link provided)
<i>Automobiles</i>	Banned from disposal.	(Permit-based; no link provided)
<i>Drums or tanks</i>	Banned unless emptied, flattened, and ends removed.	(Permit-based; no link provided)
<i>Scrap tires</i>	Banned from disposal.	(Permit-based; no link provided)
<i>Source separated food residuals</i>	Banned from disposal in a solid waste acceptance facility.	(Permit-based; no link provided)
<i>Source separated yard waste and wood waste</i>	Banned from disposal in a solid waste acceptance facility.	(Permit-based) https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/LandManagementPermits/Documents/2_04-NaturalWoodWasteRecyclingPermits.pdf
<i>Untreated septage</i>	Banned from disposal.	(Permit-based; no link provided)

Other Relevant Policies

Overview: Maryland has statutes and programs addressing recycling market development, newsprint and telephone directory recycling requirements, state green purchasing, and additional sustainable materials management requirements under the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), as well as a sustainable materials management goal established through executive order.

Policy / Program	Description	Statute or Program Link
<i>Buy Recycled / Green Purchasing</i>	State green purchasing program.	https://dgs.maryland.gov/Pages/GreenPurchasing/index.aspx
<i>Climate Solutions Now Act</i>	Includes goals supporting sustainable materials management.	https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/Climate-in-md/Pages/Homepage%20For%20Climate.aspx
<i>COMAR regulations</i>	Code of Maryland Regulations address additional or more specific SMM requirements.	https://dsd.maryland.gov/Pages/COMARHome.aspx
<i>Executive Order 01.01.2017.13</i>	Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland.	https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/recyclingandoperationsprogram/pages/waste-reduction-and-resource-recovery-executive-order.aspx
<i>Newsprint</i>	Statutory provisions related to newsprint.	https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen&section=9-1707&enactments=False&archived=False
<i>Recycling Market Development</i>	Recycling market development statute.	https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen&section=9-1702.1&enactments=False&archived=False
<i>Telephone Directory</i>	Statutory provisions related to telephone directories.	https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen&section=9-1709&enactments=False&archived=False
