

2025 Material Definitions in Order of Survey Appearance

MARYLAND RECYCLING ACT MATERIALS	
Category Material: Commingled Containers	
Commingled Containers	Include containers of different materials collected together (<i>e.g., plastic/glass/metal or plastic/metal or glass/metal or plastic/glass</i>).
Category Material: Compost or Mulch (<i>Yard waste generated from landscaping operations</i>)	
Brush and Branches	Include composting or mulching of woody materials such as branches, brush, and whole trees such as Christmas trees.
Grass	Include composting or mulching of grass clippings from residential and/or commercial sources.
Leaves	Include composting or mulching of leaves from residential and/or commercial sources.
Mixed Yard Waste	Include composting or mulching of organic plant waste derived from gardening, landscaping, and tree trimming activities. Also includes leaves, garden waste, lawn cuttings, weeds, and pruning material composted or mulched and marketed.
Category Material: Compost or Mulch (Other)	
Food Waste	Include composting or mulching of food scraps and vegetable waste from grocery stores, restaurants, cafeterias, lunchrooms, and private residences.
MSW Compost	Include composting of non-source-separated municipal solid waste. DOES NOT include landscaping materials. Report only that portion that is marketed.
Wood Materials	Include composting or mulching of wood products (<i>e.g., barrels, crates, pallets, canes, crutches, wood found in furniture that is not part of an industrial process, scrap bark from a manufacturing process, etc.</i>).
Cork	Include any recycled cork (stoppers, bulletin boards, insulation, etc.)
Other Compost or Mulch	Describe. Composting or mulching of materials from industrial processes, animal feed, animal bedding/stall waste, animal carcasses, animal organs (offal), grain waste, hatchery waste, bakery waste, sawdust, wood shavings, etc.
Category Material: Glass	
Brown Glass	Recycling of any brown glass food or beverage container.
Clear Glass	Recycling of any colorless glass food or beverage container.

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Green Glass	Recycling of any green glass food or beverage container.
Mixed Glass	Recycling of different glass food or beverage container collected together (<i>e.g., brown/ clear glass or brown/green glass or clear/green glass or brown/clear and green glass</i>).
Other Glass	Describe. Includes recycling of fluorescent bulbs, halogen bulbs, glass found in furniture, drinking containers, appliances, or pre-consumer from industrial processes. The recycling of glass from transportation equipment (e.g., cars), glass from C&D debris (e.g., windows), and the reuse of glass products DOES NOT count and should be included of the “Other Materials” category in the “Other” section.
Category Material: Metal	
Aluminum Cans	Include recycling of any aluminum beverage and food container.
Back-End Scrap	Ferrous and non-ferrous metal pulled post incineration.
Lead Acid Batteries	Include recycling of lead-acid batteries from automotive, truck, and marine products.
Mixed Cans (Aluminum, Tin, Steel)	Recycling of mixed aluminum, tin, and steel food or beverage containers.
Tin/Steel Cans	Recycling of tin and steel food or beverage containers.
White Goods	Recycling of white goods (<i>e.g., air conditioners, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, water heaters, etc.</i>).
Other Metal	Describe. Recycling of Christmas lights, litho-plates used in x-rays machines, motor oil filters, front end scrap, mixed batteries, batteries-household type (<i>e.g., AA, D, rechargeable, etc.</i>), aluminum foil and food tray containers, metal canes (Refurbished and reused canes DO NOT count), crutches, oxygen tank carts, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.
Category Material: Paper	
Magazines	Recycling of any coated paper publication (<i>e.g., magazines, catalogues, etc.</i>).
Mixed Paper	Recycling of any combination of types of acceptable paper.
Newspaper	Recycling of newspaper.
Office/Computer Paper	Recycling of office paper that is not contaminated by glue, plastic, or other foreign matter (<i>e.g., computer printout paper, white or colored paper, copier paper, etc.</i>).
Old Corrugated Cardboard	Recycled corrugated cardboard material.
Telephone Directories	Recycling of old phone books.

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Other Paper	Describe. Recycling of paper from industrial processes, unsold returned books, unsold catalogues, paper waste from print shops, waxed OCC, press butt rolls, cardboard cores, felt paper, etc.).
Category Material: Plastic	
Mixed Plastic	Recycling of different types of plastic food or beverage containers.
Plastic #1 PET	Recycling of a specific type of plastic food or beverage container.
Plastic #2 HDPE	Recycling of a specific type of plastic food or beverage container.
Plastic #3 Plastic	Define. Recycling of a specific type of plastic food or beverage container.
Other Plastic	Describe. Recycling of other type of plastic (<i>e.g., #3 plastic, bags, hangers, gift cards, EAS tags, colored plastic wrappers, plastic from industrial processes, storage or pesticide containers, barrels, film, shrink wrap used in packaging, flexible foam, recycled medical equipment, recycled medical waste, furniture, etc.</i>). The recycling of plastic from transportation equipment (e.g., cars) DOES NOT count and should be included of the “Other Materials” category in the “Other” section.
Category Material: Other Material	
Animal Protein/Solid Fat	<p>In order for a material to be classified as an animal protein/solid fat, the material must pass the Paint Filter Liquids Test. Also, the material cannot be converted to biofuel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal Renderings: Include animal waste tissue or solid fat that has been converted or melted down by heating. Renderings cannot be converted to biofuel. - Animal Organs (Offal): Animal organs, tissues, or blood that are the waste products from an animal’s primary purpose that are recycled and marketed into a material not related to the animal’s primary purpose (<i>e.g., an animal slaughtered for human consumption with the byproducts used as a research tool, medical training, NON-composted recycling, etc.</i>). A research animal that has its organs recycled as pet food counts towards the recycling rate counts toward the MRA rate. However, organs processed into pet food from an animal that was raised as food stock DOES NOT count as recycling.
Electronics	Recycled or refurbished electronic waste. IMPORTANT: Jurisdictions reporting electronics recycling should follow-up with their contractor and verify that the electronic waste is actually being recycled by the processor.
MSW-to-Energy Ash	Ash recycled by converting into aggregate, incorporating into cement blocks, etc.

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Pallets	Refurbished pallets ONLY . List mulched or composted pallets in “Compost/Mulch (Other)” category – “Wood Materials” section.
Textiles	Textile material processed into other materials (<i>e.g., carpets, garments, or fabrics</i>). Carpet remnants returned to the manufacturer to be used in the manufacturing process. Also, include goodwill clothing items that are not sold and are subsequently sold to a rag dealer, mattresses processed and remanufactured into new products. IMPORTANT: Donated or reused textiles DO NOT count towards the MRA rate and should be included in the “Other” section.
Tires (Recycled)	Tires that are recycled into new products containing rubber (<i>e.g., trashcans, storage containers, rubberized asphalt, etc.</i>), and use of whole tires for playground and reef construction.
Tires (Retread)	Retread or recapped tires.
Tires (Cement Kiln 12%)	Tires burned -to-cement kilns. Enter 12% of the total weight of tires used at cement kilns.
Other Materials	Describe. Recycling of other type of materials (<i>e.g., toner cartridges used in printers, wooden cores, roofing shingle (manufacturing process only), hazardous waste, beauty, granule waste, food of bakery waste (NOT composted) turned into animal feed, fiberglass, paint, Municipal solid waste-to-energy facility ash, animal carcasses (NOT composted), ballasts recycled (light ballasts DO NOT count), scrap bark manufactured into a new product (e.g., charcoal), hatchery waste processed into a protein supplement, utility poles (wood), etc.</i>)

NON-MARYLAND RECYCLING ACT MATERIALS

Category: Other Materials

Animal Protein/Fats (liquid)	Liquid animal fats.
Antifreeze	Recycled antifreeze.
Asphalt	Recycled asphalt.
Coal Ash (Fly Ash, Pozzolan)	Recycled coal ash, fly ash, or pozzolan.
Concrete	Recycled concrete.
Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris (Code of Maryland Regulations 26.04.07.13)	Structural building material including cement, concrete, bricks (excluding refractory type), lumber, plaster and plasterboard, insulation, shingles, floor, wall and ceiling tile, pipes, glass, wires, carpet, wallpaper, roofing, felt, or other structural fabrics. Demolition debris is debris associated with the razing of buildings, roads, bridges, and other structures includes structural steel, concrete, bricks (excluding refractory type), lumber, plaster and plasterboard, insulation, cement, shingles and roofing material, floor and wall tile, asphalt, pipes, wires, and other items physically attached to the structure, including appliances if they have been or will be compacted to their smallest practical volume.
Glass (Transportation/C&D)	Recycled glass from transportation equipment (<i>e.g., cars, etc.</i>) and from C&D activities (<i>e.g., windows, etc.</i>).
Industrial Fluids	Recycled industrial fluids (non-Household Hazardous Waste) (<i>e.g., cleaning fluids, pesticides, fluids in manufacturing, etc.</i>).
Insulators	Insulators used in the electric grid.
Landclearing Debris	Earthen materials (<i>e.g., clays, sands, gravels, and silts</i>), topsoil, tree stumps, root mats, brush and branches, logs, vegetation, and rock from land clearing operations, that if not recycled are discarded in landclearing debris, rubble, or C&D landfills.
Roof shingles	Generated from the construction and should be included in the "C&D" section.
Rubble	Wastes acceptable for disposal in a permitted rubble landfill or cell including demolition debris, construction debris, asbestos, and landclearing debris, and should be included in the "C&D" section.
Scrap Metal	<p>Include scrap metal that has historically been processed through a scrap yard for recycling such as automobiles, plumbing materials, etc.</p> <p>Scrap metal DOES NOT include aluminum beverage and food containers; aluminum foil and food tray containers; bi-metal, tin, and steel food or beverage containers; white goods; lead acid batteries; front end scrap; back end scrap; and hospital appliances.</p>

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Sewage Sludge	Any thickened liquid, suspension, settled solid, or dried residue that a sewage treatment plant extracts from sewage.
Soil	Composting of soil material.
Textiles (donated/reused)	Donated or reused textiles.
Utility Pole (metal)	Recycled utility poles (metal) and should be included in the “Scrap Metal”.
Utility Poles (wood)	Recycled utility poles (wood).
Waste Oil	Recycling of waste oil.
Vegetable Oil	<p>Vegetable waste that is composted counts towards the MRA rate and should be included in the “Food Waste” section of the “Compost/Mulch (Other)” category.</p> <p>Vegetable waste from a processor sent to a farmer as a substitute for other feed counts towards the MRA rate and should be included in the “Other” section of the “Other Materials” category.</p>

For more detailed guidelines, refer to the *Maryland Recycling Act Tonnage Reporting System Guidelines*, available under “County Coordinator Resources” on MDE’s recycling web page: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/CountyCoordinatorResources.aspx>.