
2025 Edition

Maryland Food Waste Compliance Checklist

Essential Guidelines for
Businesses to Follow

Ensure your business complies and
contributes to sustainability!



Who Must Comply

- Businesses generating 2+ tons of food waste per week (effective 2023).
- Expands in 2024–2025 to include businesses generating 1+ ton per week.
- Applies to: food manufacturers, processors, distributors, supermarkets, large retailers, universities, hospitals, correctional facilities.

Requirements under Maryland's Food Recycling Law

- Separate food waste from other solid waste.
- Divert waste to an organics recycling facility (anaerobic digestion, composting) within 30 miles if available.
- Do not landfill or incinerate food waste when diversion is possible.
- Maintain records of diversion, hauler contracts, and volumes.

Steps to Take Now

- Assess your food waste volume (average weekly).
- Identify facilities within 30 miles (MORC & MBC qualify for much of Maryland).
- Update hauler contracts for diversion services.
- Train staff on separation and handling.
- Track and report disposal with compliance records.

Avoid Common Pitfalls

- Assuming haulers automatically divert waste — confirm in writing.
- Ignoring distance exemptions (rules may tighten).
- Failing to maintain compliance documentation.

How We Can Help!

At the Maryland Bioenergy Center (MBC) and Maryland Organics Recovery Center (MORC), we provide businesses with a reliable, compliant solution for managing food waste. We accept off-spec, expired, packaged, and even palletized materials and process them through advanced anaerobic digestion technology. This converts food waste into renewable natural gas while keeping your operations aligned with Maryland's food residuals law. By working with us, you reduce landfill costs, stay compliant, and contribute to a cleaner energy future.

- ✓ **Accepts packaged & expired food waste.**
- ✓ **Provides cost savings vs. landfill.**
- ✓ **Ensures compliance with Maryland's law.**
- ✓ **Generates renewable energy and reduces emissions**

