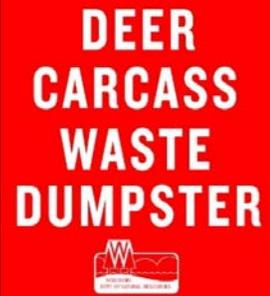




DEER CARCASS DISPOSAL IN WISCONSIN

Frequently Asked Questions

Many hunters, meat processors and taxidermists have questions about proper handling of deer carcasses. Given statewide concern about managing the spread of chronic wasting disease, proper carcass disposal is more important than ever. This document answers many frequently asked questions about deer waste and carcass disposal.



Are deer carcasses considered a solid waste?

Yes, according to Wisconsin statute s. 289.01(33), deer carcasses are defined as solid waste.

Can deer carcasses be disposed of in a landfill?

Yes, landfilling is the preferred option for carcass disposal. Contact your local landfill to determine if it accepts deer carcasses and if it requires any special handling procedures prior to disposal. You should do this before placing the carcass in your curbside container or bringing it to the landfill.

What is Adopt-a-Dumpster?

The main goal of the Adopt-a-Dumpster program is to provide hunters an option for appropriate deer carcass waste disposal, especially in areas where carcass disposal options are very limited or unavailable. Individuals or organizations can volunteer to sponsor a dumpster during the deer season at a mutually agreed upon location with the DNR. Contact your local DNR wildlife biologist or deer biologist for details.

Where can I find a landfill, transfer facility or Adopt-a-Dumpster location to accept my deer carcass?

The DNR maintains a list of licensed or approved facilities willing to accept deer carcasses at: dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/landfillmap.html.

This list may not be all-inclusive, so contact your local landfill or transfer station prior to disposal. Adopt-a-Dumpster locations are only shown on the map during the fall deer hunting season.

If I butcher my deer at home, what should I do if I live in an area where the landfill does not accept deer carcasses?

The preferred option for carcass disposal is landfilling. However, if that is not a reasonably available option, you may legally bury a single carcass on private property where the waste was generated with permission from the landowner. The carcass should be buried deep enough to prevent excavation by scavengers.

This method effectively removes the waste from the open environment and places a barrier between uninfected deer and a potential source of CWD transmission. Do not bury carcasses in wetlands or where they may cause a detrimental effect to surface or ground water. Burial is only allowable for residential generated carcass waste. Burial is not an option for large quantities of carcasses that would be generated by roadside pickup, butchering operations or taxidermists.

Can I dispose of my carcass in the field?

Leaving a deer carcass in the field is a last resort

for hunters. If no other option is available, hunters may obtain landowner permission to dispose of deer carcasses on private property as close to the site of harvest as possible. Anyone using this option should also place the carcass waste in a location where other deer and scavengers are unlikely to encounter it.

Deer carcasses are solid waste, and it is illegal to dispose of waste on any public lands or roadways as well as on private property without permission. Field dressing a deer and leaving the gut pile and associated animal parts on-site on public or private land is permitted.

Are there restrictions on where I can move a deer carcass?

Yes, because CWD can be spread to deer through contact with deer carcasses, it is crucial to minimize carcass movement, especially in CWD-affected areas. State statute requires that the head, spine and lymphoid tissues of deer harvested within a CWD-affected county shall not be moved or disposed of outside of the CWD-affected county of harvest unless it is brought to a licensed landfill, meat processor or taxidermist, the head brought to a CWD sampling station or to an adjacent county.

Can road-killed deer be collected and buried in a pit or trench?

No, burial of collected road-killed deer is not allowed. Burying deer carcasses poses a threat to ground water quality. Road-killed deer need to be disposed of at a licensed landfill, renderer or DNR-approved facility such as a transfer facility.

Can road-killed deer carcasses be left on the landscape where they were killed?

Yes, road-killed deer may be left on the roadside in instances when only one deer is killed. There may be concerns about odor or unsightliness, but they are generally short-lived as the carcass naturally decomposes.

To avoid vehicle collisions with birds or other animals feeding on the carcasses, road-killed deer should be moved to the far edge of the road right-of-way but not onto private property outside of the right-of-way. A reasonable effort should be made to obscure the deer carcass from the traveling public. Examples include moving the carcass at a 90-degree angle from the road so unbent grasses hide the carcass, or using bushes

or other woody vegetation.

Can I compost road-killed deer picked up by a contractor or municipality, or carcass waste generated by a processing facility or taxidermist?

Composting may be an option for commercial or municipal operations. Composting may only be done in counties unaffected by CWD. A license from the DNR is required for this type of composting. Contact your local waste management specialist for further details.

Can licensed meat processors and taxidermists dispose of inedible deer parts on the landscape or provide them to trappers or wildlife watchers?

No, licensed meat processors and permitted taxidermists receiving deer carcasses must dispose of all inedible parts and all parts of the spinal column, brain and lymphoid tissues in a properly permitted landfill or with a licensed renderer in accordance with s. NR 10.105(7)(c), Wis. Adm. Code. Use of deer parts as bait for trapping or attractants for personal entertainment, such as photography, is prohibited.

Resources

Find carcass disposal options near you:

dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/landfillmap.html

Find more information on chronic wasting disease:

dnr.wi.gov, search "CWD."

Questions on deer carcass disposal? Contact:

Dan Kroll, DNR waste management specialist
920-662-5488, daniel.kroll@wisconsin.gov



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Waste and Materials Management Program
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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.

DOCUMENT ID

WA-19-1881-C

DOCUMENT TITLE

Deer Carcass Disposal in Wisconsin

PROGRAM/BUREAU

Waste and Materials Management

STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

Ch. 289, Wis. Stats.

DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

October 21, 2019

DATE FINALIZED

November 12, 2019

DNR CERTIFICATION

I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.

November 12, 2019

Signature

Date