

Carcass Disposal Matters!

Certain parts of deer carcasses, most notably the brain and spinal cord, may be heavily contaminated with the infectious agent that causes chronic wasting disease (CWD). This infectious agent may also survive for years in the environment. As a result, an infected deer carcass will contaminate the local landscape and may expose a healthy deer to CWD years after death. It is therefore critical that all hunters dispose of their leftover carcass parts properly.

Leftover parts of deer harvested anywhere in Virginia should be:

- **Double-bagged and placed directly in a landfill, a trash receptacle to be picked up with the regular trash collection, or in a compactor**
 - Landfill disposal is the best way to prevent the spread of CWD
- **Buried close to the site of harvest**
 - Burial reduces but does not eliminate the risk of spreading CWD
- **Left on the landscape as close as possible to the site of harvest**
 - As a last resort, carcasses may be left on the landscape but they should be left as close to the site of harvest as possible

Deer carcasses should never be dumped near or into bodies of water or along roadways.

Hunters are not advised to move carcasses long distances, if avoidable.