

Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating at Leicestershire County Council Recycling and Household Waste Sites

Public Guidance

Background

The Environment Agency has issued guidance recently regarding the disposal of upholstered seating containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This waste is no longer sent to landfill and must be destroyed through incineration. This includes any seating or seating associated furniture item with cushioning or padding such as sofas, dining or office style chairs, futons, pouffes, etc. and includes any part made of or containing leather, synthetic leather, fabric, or foam. It excludes other household items that may contain lower levels of POPs such as mattresses, carpets, duvets, beds and curtains. For more information see the [Environment Agency's guidance on POPs](#).

Bottesford Recycling and Household Waste Site (RHWS) does not accept any Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) items. Please do not take WUDS to this site, as tipping will be refused.

All other RHWS have a separate container available for the collection of WUDS items. Please always check the Leicestershire County Council (LCC) website [to find your nearest RHWS](#). If these containers are full, you will be advised to return another time or to visit an alternative RHWS.





Please look for the Upholstered Domestic Seating signage at the sites and check with a member of staff if you are unsure or have any queries.

Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) Items at the Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS)

WUDS Items

WUDS Items are any upholstered domestic seating or associated items and can include:

- Sofas, sofa beds, settees
- Armchairs
- Recliner chairs (electrical or mechanical)
- Home office, dining and kitchen chairs
- Futons and pouffes
- Stools and footstools
- Bean bags
- Floor cushions
- Removable children's / baby car seats

Item	Example	Bin/Container	Comment
Sofa		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Armchair		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Sofa bed		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Floor cushion		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Bean bag		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Removable children's / baby car seat and bases		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning

Padded stool		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Padded footstool		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Futon		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Pouffe		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Highchair		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Upholstered dining chair		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning








Office chair		WUDS	Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning
Reclining chairs / sofas		WUDS	<p>Mechanical or electrical.</p> <p>Whole or any part that contains any leather, synthetic leather, fabric, foam, padding or cushioning</p>





Non-WUDS Items

If an above listed item contains **NO** fabric or padding/cushioning **AT ALL**, then it should go in its usual container e.g. a chair made solely of wood with no fabric or padding would go in the wood container. If in doubt, ask the site staff or take to the WUDS container.

The following items are not considered to be WUDS and should be disposed of in their usual container.

- A solely wooden chair or stool
- A solely metal chair or stool
- A solely plastic chair or stool
- A chair made of plastic and metal only
- Mattresses
- Carpets
- Pillows and cushions
- Curtains
- Beds including frames and headboards

Item	Example	Bin/Container	Comment
Wooden chair/ stool/bed frame		Wood	If partially upholstered or unsure, ask a member of staff
Metal chair/stool/bed frame		Scrap Metal	If partially upholstered or unsure, ask a member of staff
Plastic chair/stool/bed frame		Bulky	If partially upholstered or unsure, ask a member of staff
Mattress		Bulky	Mattresses are excluded as not domestic seating
Pillow/duvet/scatter cushions		Non-Recyclable Waste	Not domestic seating
Fabric/leather headboard		Bulky	Beds and associated parts are excluded
Non-Electrical Exercise equipment		Bulky	Not domestic seating

Electrical exercise equipment e.g. exercise bike		Small Electrical Goods	
Rolls and large mats/rugs		Bulky	Not domestic seating
Off cuts and small mats		Non-recyclable waste	Not domestic seating
Pet beds		Non-recyclable waste	Not domestic seating

Frequently Asked Questions

What are POPs and why are they important?

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemicals which can leach into the environment and stay there for long periods of time. These chemicals can be found in sofas and other upholstered seating. Whilst these chemicals are no longer used in the manufacturing of furniture, there are still items in circulation containing POPs. For more information see the [Environment Agency's guidance on POPs](#).

What about the reuse of WUDS items?

Only undamaged, clean and in good condition/dry upholstered chairs, sofas etc with the relevant fire safety labels can be put in the reuse area. If unsure, please ask the site staff. Items that are broken, dirty or have ripped padding must be placed in the WUDS bin. For more information on [furniture reuse](#) visit the Less Waste website.

Can Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating containing POPs still be collected with bulky waste?

Bulky waste collections are organised by your district council. Please check with your district council to see if this service is available to you.

How does this affect businesses using Leicestershire County Council trade waste facilities?

Leicestershire County Council will temporarily not be able to accept any Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) at our Whetstone Waste Transfer Station. **Trade waste is NOT accepted at any of the Recycling and Household Waste Sites.**

Can I donate my Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating to a charity?

Please speak to the charity first and do not just leave your items at charity shops or drop off/collection points unless by prior agreement with them. Some charities may accept domestic seating with relevant fire safety labels in place and that are in good condition for reuse.