

# SPARLING RECYCLING LTD

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Dear Customer,

## **Waste upholstered domestic seating and persistent organic pollutants (POPs)**

We are writing with an update following recent communications and guidance from the Environment Agency banning the re-use, recycling and disposal of waste domestic seating to Landfill. Instead, this waste must now be incinerated.

After an investigation by the Environment Agency in 2021 found large levels of POPs in seating textiles and foams, the EA wrote to councils instructing them that from the start of this year all upholstered waste domestic seating must be incinerated.

The furniture affected includes all **upholstered** seating. These items must be sent for incineration or used as a fuel in, for example, a cement kiln.

Upholstered seating containing POPs include the following items:

- sofas
- sofa beds
- armchairs
- kitchen and dining room chairs
- stools and foot stools
- home office chairs
- futons
- bean bags, floor and sofa cushions

This includes any part made of or containing leather, synthetic leather, other fabric, or foam.

The following items of seating are unlikely to contain POPs:

- items that are not upholstered, for example, a wooden chair without a cushioned or textile back, seat, or arms
- deckchairs
- wastes from manufacturing new seating that the manufacturer can demonstrate do not to contain POPs

As a result of these changes, we are having to change how we deal with this waste stream to ensure we comply with the Environment Agency requirements.

**With immediate effect.**

All seating must be separated from other wastes. We can no longer accept seating within mixed waste, general waste or mixed with any other waste type.

**If you have waste that is upholstered seating, please contact us on 01822 860298 and we will advise/assist you accordingly.**

If any of these materials are discovered in loads collected by / or delivered to us, additional charges will be applied.

Items found within Skip / Roro containers:

- £50 per large item (2-Seater Sofa and upwards) + vat in addition to the original load / tonnage charge for the load
- £30 per small item (Chairs, Stools, Bean Bags etc.) + vat in addition to the original load / tonnage charge for the load



**Regulatory Position Statements**

The Environment Agency has published three regulatory position statements (RPSs) outlining its stance on the handling and treatment of soft furnishings containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

- RPS 264 Shredding waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs
- RPS 265 The temporary storage of waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs
- RPS 266 Segregating waste upholstered domestic seating that may contain POPs at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs)

The RPS documents do not alter the legal requirements around POPs, but set out the steps which must be taken to avoid formal enforcement action from the Environment Agency. The Agency has also published a further two guidance documents on POPs in soft furnishings, with another two on identifying POPs in waste.

Yours sincerely,

*R D Sparling*

Roger Sparling