



ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFING

New Waste Segregation Requirements

Summary

Very late in December 2022 the Government confirmed that all waste textiles and foam in upholstered domestic seating that contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) would be banned from landfill and must be incinerated from 1st January 2023. POPs are chemicals that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment.

Historically waste domestic seating, including office type chairs, might have been placed in a general waste container. They now need to be segregated and collected separately. Not all Biffa facilities will be able to receive this type of waste, and those that can will require it to be separated from other waste that we generate.

All upholstered items of seating waste may contain POPs. This includes items with any part made of or containing leather, synthetic leather, other fabric, or foam. Waste domestic seating includes any item of seating from households or businesses that is a waste, for example sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, kitchen and dining room chairs, stools and foot stools, office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor, and sofa cushions. Please ensure that these items are segregated from general waste and contact Biffa customer services, who will be able to arrange a dedicated collection service.

Products not considered 'domestic seating' for the purposes of the guidance include items that are not upholstered (for example a wooden chair without a cushioned or textile back, seat or arms). Curtains and blinds will also not require segregation from general waste.



Key Points

- Waste textiles and foam in upholstered domestic seating that contain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is now banned from landfill and must be incinerated from 1st January 2023.
- POPs are chemicals that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment.
- Upholstered items of seating waste may contain POPs. This includes items with any part made of or containing leather, synthetic leather, other fabric, or foam.
- Waste domestic seating includes any item of seating from households or businesses that is a waste, for example sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, kitchen and dining room chairs, stools and foot stools, home office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor, and sofa cushions.
- Historically these items might have been placed in a general waste container.
- Non upholstered seating e.g. a wooden chair without a cushioned or textile back, seat or arms will not need to be segregated
- Please ensure that these items are now segregated from general waste and contact Biffa customer services, who will be able to arrange a dedicated collection service.