



Service Commitment Sustainability

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9th of February 2023

Dear valued customer,

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Upholstered Domestic Furniture

As you may have heard from the media, the Environment Agency (EA) has begun cracking down on items containing POPs to ensure that the POPs are properly destroyed. Upholstered domestic seating furniture has been identified as a specific issue due to the treatment of this furniture with flame-retardant chemicals, which include POPs.

In the UK, POPs have been eliminated from new upholstered domestic seating since 2011. However, imported furniture could contain POPs until the end of 2019. It is believed that of the sofas and other soft seating items currently being discarded, about 30% have POPs.

High-temperature incinerators are the only EA-approved disposal methods (energy from waste plants and cement kilns). Generally, these require the items to be pre-shredded, and the shredding process must not release any of the POPs coatings on the fabric, linings and stuffing of these furnishing, so dust removal is required, and the dust collected must be destroyed by high-temperature incineration.

GBN Services has suitable outlets for these items; however, upholstered domestic seating furniture must be separately collected to prevent cross-contamination during collection and transportation.

This only applies to domestic seating furniture that is declared as “**waste**”. If it can be shown that the domestic seating furniture was manufactured during or later than 2020, then it is safe for normal disposal activities. Still, we will need to have the proof to show the EA that we are compliant.

It is still possible to reuse these items, even if minor repairs are necessary to make them usable again. Unfortunately, major repairs can no longer be undertaken, so any domestic seating furniture needing a major repair will have to be treated as waste.

If you have upholstered domestic seating that is not fit for reuse, please contact us, and we will provide a quotation for the collection and safe disposal as indicated above.

GBN Services Management Team



SERVICES TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY