

Furniture Recycling

Furniture

Furniture can be difficult and bulky to dispose of. An environmentally-friendly alternative is to send your old furniture to be reconditioned or re-used.

This option is also society-friendly as many schemes make your old furniture suitable for use by community groups or socially-disadvantaged families.

Whilst much furniture has wooden frames, which will biodegrade, office furniture and additions such as cushions are often made of synthetic materials that will not degrade so easily.

Furniture that is dumped rather than dealt with correctly creates an eyesore that lasts many years if the furniture contains synthetic materials.

Domestic Appliances

Many small household appliances, such as kettles and irons (and ironing boards) can also be recycled in this way, thus diverting more waste from landfill and helping to fulfil targets laid out in directives such as the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive. More information on such equipment can be found in our fact sheets on Computers, mobile phones and batteries.

Buy Second Hand

Some charity shops sell second hand furniture,. Other sources are your local newspaper or organisations such as Greenworks (see links). Buying second hand helps to "close the loop", and prevents resources being used needlessly in creating new furniture.



Photo courtesy of the Environment Agency

Where to take your furniture

Many areas have district or county-wide furniture re-use schemes. Their contact details will be available from your local council, or the Furniture Re-use Network (FRN) has contact details of all schemes (see links below).

Charity shops may take some furniture, but you should contact them in advance to ensure that they have space and are able to sell it on.

Check your local newspaper. Community groups in need of furniture will often put out wanted adverts in the local paper.

Links:

www.frn.org.uk

The national coordinating body for furniture re-use schemes. The website has contact details for many schemes and many useful publications.

<http://www.green-works.co.uk/>

Provides collection and reuse/recycling services for redundant office furniture, as well as selling second hand office furniture and childrens furniture made from recycled materials