



IMPORTANT CHANGES WHEN DISPOSING OF UPHOLSTERED DOMESTIC SEATING

New legislation introduced by the Scottish Government and enforced by SEPA means that Scottish Borders Council (SBC) needs to change the way it accepts and manages upholstered domestic seating items e.g. sofas, chairs. This is due to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) chemicals that have the potential to be harmful to human health and the wider environment.

Upholstered domestic seating includes any seating which has parts made of/or containing leather, synthetic leather, other fabric, or foam such as:

- Sofas
- Sofa beds
- Armchairs
- Kitchen and dining room chairs
- Stools and foot stools
- Home office chairs
- Futons, bean bags and, floor and sofa cushions
- Electrical recliner chairs

These changes will affect all householders disposing of upholstered seating at a Community Recycling Centre or via a Bulky Uplift.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRES

From **21st October 2024**, householders wishing to dispose of upholstered seating at one of our Community Recycling Centres, will be required to make a booking online (with the exception of those using a car at Galashiels). Some small items will be accepted without a booking at all recycling centres, see over for further details.

BULKY UPLIFT

We will soon be making changes to our bulky uplift service as upholstered seating cannot be mixed with other items in the same vehicle. In the near future, upholstered seating will need to be booked separately from other bulky items. There will be dedicated collection days for upholstered seating and another for other bulky items. Please keep a look out on the SBC website and social media for updates.

BOOKING A DISPOSAL OF UPHOLSTERED DOMESTIC SEATING AT A COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE

HOW DO I MAKE A BOOKING?

You can make a booking using the SBC online booking form www.scotborders.gov.uk/CRCbookingform or by calling Customer Services on **0300 100 1800**. The new online booking forms will go live on **21st October 2024**.

I'M COMING IN MY CAR, DO I STILL NEED TO BOOK?

Yes, you still need to book at all sites if you are coming in your car except at Galashiels.

IS THERE ANY TYPE OF UPHOLSTERED SEATING THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE A BOOKING?

Small items such as bean bags and cushions can be accepted without a booking, please advise the attendant if you have these.

HOW MANY UPHOLSTERED ITEMS CAN I BRING INTO A SITE IN ONE BOOKING?

Galashiels will have no quantity restrictions when transporting upholstered seating by car. All other Community Recycling Centres can only accept a certain quantity per week.

PREVENTING A RELEASE OF FIBRES INTO THE ENVIRONMENT

SBC cannot accept upholstered seating that has been damaged, torn or broken unless the items have been sealed to prevent the release of fibres e.g. a tear can be covered using tape, a torn seat pad can be placed within a sealed bag.

FAQs

WHAT ARE PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS?

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are a group of hazardous chemicals which have the potential to have harmful impacts on the environment and human health. They have recently been found in upholstered seating in quantities which exceed legal limits. This means that once these items of upholstered seating become waste, known as Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS), they become subject to the strict controls outlined in the UK Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulations 2007 and its subsequent amendments.

WHAT DO SBC NEED TO DO, TO COMPLY WITH THE LEGISLATION?

SBC must ensure that all upholstered seating accepted for disposal or during forward transportation are kept separate from other non-upholstered items. Storage areas housing large quantities of upholstered seating must have a dust suppression system in place. Easter Langlee waste transfer station at Galashiels is the only site that meets these requirements.

WHY ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS TO QUANTITIES ACCEPTED AT EACH SITE?

Our CRC sites do not have dust suppression systems or space available for bulk storage. This means we are only able to accept a limited amount of upholstered seating at a time at our CRCs.

WHAT WILL SBC DO WITH THE UPHOLSTERED SEATING?

The new legislation means that most of the Upholstered Domestic Seating will need to be sent for incineration, which means we are unable to recycle it as is currently the case. This will impact the Council's recycling performance, which will be the same for all Local Authorities.

We appreciate that this is a big change which affects the whole of the UK. We have tried hard to ensure that Scottish Borders Council can continue to accept this waste from householders whilst adhering to the legislation/guidance.

More info: www.scotborders.gov.uk/wasteupholstereddomesticseating –alternatively you can speak to one of customer service representatives on **03001001800**

