



POPs Upholstered domestic seating & persistent organic pollutants

The Environment Agency (EA) has provided an update to all local authorities and waste management companies regarding waste items that could contain POPs. Specific guidance has been issued for upholstered domestic seating including sofas, cushions, and some textiles.

What are POPs?

- POPs are organic substances that persist in the environment, accumulate in living organisms, and may cause long-term adverse effects on our health via food-chains and the environment.
- Items containing POPs are **banned from landfill**.
- UK manufacturers of these items stopped using POPs between 2002 and 2011, but imported items had some POPs chemicals as late as 2019.
- POPs regulations have been in place since 2007.
- The EA has clarified that it will be measuring compliance against these regulations. It therefore issued new guidance in December 2022 regarding identifying, classifying, handling and disposing of POPs waste at:

[gov.uk/guidance/identify-and-classify-waste-containing-persistent-organic-pollutants-pops](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/identify-and-classify-waste-containing-persistent-organic-pollutants-pops)

What do waste producers need to do?

- As a waste producer, it is your responsibility to know if the upholstered domestic items you are disposing of contain POPs.
- If it can be evidenced by a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or import documentation that the item does not contain POPs, then this can be disposed of as non-POPs waste.
- If you have any kind of upholstered waste, **it must be assumed that it does contain POPs and you can contact us regarding compliant removal**.
- European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code for POPs - Items of upholstered domestic seating waste that may contain POPs must be classified with list of waste code **20 03 07**.
- **It must be clear on the transfer note** if waste potentially contains POPs. The EA require that the description must be 'domestic seating waste containing POPs'.
- POPs containing waste **must not be co-mingled with any other waste streams**, they must not be broken down and need to be stored and handled separately.

What is Beuparc's plan?

Beuparc has taken the initiative to repurpose a dedicated POPs processing facility within its UK network.

Beuparc will bulk material from other sites within the group, which include Lincolnshire, Widnes, Peterborough, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, and other Leeds sites for processing and disposal.



If you have a question relating to POPs related waste, please contact your local account manager or email waste@beuparc.co.uk