

Material Recovery Opportunities

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This profile provides high level summary information about solid waste management for furniture materials. The profile was developed to provide interested parties assistance in determining disposal options and recover values from various furniture materials.

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES	RECYCLING OPTION	PRICE/POUND
ALUMINUM			\$0.15 - \$0.80
Cast Aluminum	Chair bases, arms, etc.	Can be sent to metal recycler	
Extruded Aluminum	Panel tracks, chair controls, etc.	Can be sent to metal recycler	
ZINC			\$0.10 - \$0.30
Diecast Zinc	Drawer pulls, some grommets, etc.	Can be sent to metal recycler	
PLASTICS			\$0 - \$0.15
Acrylonitrile Butadine Styrene (ABS)	Chair components	Can be ground into pellets and sold as raw material	
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	Panel banding, worksurface rims, etc.	Can be ground into pellets and sold as raw material	
Polyurethane – Flexible Material	Chair cushions	Can be shredded and made into carpet pads, pillows, etc.	
Polyurethane – Packaging Material	Packaging cushions for seating	Can be sent back to the supplier for reuse.	
Nylon Components	Chair bases, structures, arms, etc.	Can be ground into pellets and sold as raw material	
Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)	Recycled fabrics	Can be ground into pellets and sold as raw material	
High density polyethylene (HDPE)	Seating inner backs and seats	Can be ground into pellets and sold as raw material	
Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)	Packing materials	Can be ground into pellets and sold as raw material	
Polycarbonate (PC)	Electrical grommets and grommet covers	Can be ground into pellets and sold as raw material	
IRON/STEEL			\$0.03 - \$0.06
Thin Gauge Steel (< 1/16")	Metal cabinets, etc.	Can be sent to metal recycler	
Thick Gauge Steel (> 1/16")	Brackets, panel frames, chair cylinders, chair frames, etc.	Can be sent to metal recycler	
Brass	Keys, chair control bushings, etc.	Can be sent to metal recycler	
PAPER			\$0.01 - \$0.06
Corrugated Packaging	Cartons, packing trays, etc.	Can be sent to paper or corrugated mill and broken down into pulp and reused in paper industry	
Office Paper	Literature, pricing materials, hang tags, instruction sheets, etc.	Can be sent to paper mill and broken down into pulp and reused in paper industry	

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES	RECYCLING OPTION	PRICE/POUND
GLASS			\$0 - \$0.02
Tempered Glass	Insert tiles	Can be ground for raw material for glass production, used as catalyst in smelting, or used as abrasive for sand-blasting	
Fiberglass	Panel frames	Can be reused for insulation	
TEXTILES			\$0.10 - \$0.30
Vinyl	Chair vinyl, panel vinyl, etc.	No current market available	
Woven Fabric	Chair fabric, panel fabric, etc.	Can be sent back to textile industry for matting reuse in auto industry for sound barriers	
Leather	Chair leather, panel leather, etc.	Can be sent back to leather industry for reuse	
WOOD			\$0
Veneers	End panels, worksurfaces, etc.	Can be ground and used for mulch, composite wood, etc.	
Dimensional Solid Stock Components	Chair frames, base caps, etc.	Can be ground and used for mulch, fuel, etc.	
Hardwood Plywood	Lounge frames, seat pans, seat backs, etc.	Can be ground and used for composite wood, animal bedding, etc.	
Particleboard	End panels, worksurfaces, etc.	Can be ground and used for mulch, fuel, composite wood, animal bedding, etc.	
Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF)	End panels, worksurfaces, etc.	Can be ground and used for fuel, composite wood, animal bedding, etc.	
High Density Fiberboard (HDF)	Drawer bottoms	Can be ground and used for fuel, composite wood, animal bedding, etc.	

PLEASE NOTE: furniture assemblies and components can be disassembled with standards tools. Listed examples do not include all furniture components for identified material. Prices are rounded and can vary significantly for material grades, markets, trends, etc.