



Guideline: Accepting timber waste

RECYCLING

A significant proportion of the timber entering our recycling depot is processed into mulch, used for large-scale, government funded, tree planting projects such as freeway and roadside landscaping.

In order for us to not damage our equipment and create mulch that is both environmentally friendly and Vic Roads compliant, the source material must be free of:

- MDF / Fibre Board
- Masonite / Melamine
- Laminated Chipboard/Particle Board
- CCA / ACQ Treated Pine
- Metal hardware larger than 3mm
- Plastic, cardboard, paper and other general rubbish

Smart Recycling has created this guide to:

- Communicate the sites terms and conditions in relation to contaminated loads
- Help you identify the types of timber loads that can and cannot be recycled
- Provide an explanation as to why these are unsuitable timbers for mulching

Timber disposal terms and conditions

To protect the integrity of both our equipment and the products manufactured by Smart Recycling we have developed the following timber disposal terms and conditions:

- Loads containing any of the items listed in the 'timber not accepted' section of this document will incur a contamination surcharge based on the disposal cost of the items in question. Any badly contaminated loads will not be accepted
- Damage to mulching equipment caused by metal found in loads will result in repair costs, being passed onto those responsible for the contaminated waste

Timber not accepted

This section provides more information about products not accepted by Smart Recycling.

MDF / Fibre Board

Common uses:

- Crates, boxes and pallets
- Office furniture, kitchen and bathroom cabinets
- Hollow core doors and modern architraves
- Increasingly used in imported packaging, roll ends, spacer sheets or as pallet tops

Reasons for non-compliance:

- When mulched it 'puffs up' when exposed to moisture and can become airborne causing wind-blown litter on freeways and roadsides
- Often contains a laminated plastic finish that does not decompose

Examples:



Masonite / Melamine

Common uses:

- To construct crates, boxes and pallets
- As spacer sheets, doors, lining boards
- Packaging

Reason for non-compliance:

- Forms flat wafers instead of timber chips when mulched

Examples:



Laminated Chipboard/Particle Board

Common use:

- To construct boxes, office furniture, cabinetry

Reason for non-compliance:

- Pulverises into a fine dust when mulched
- Contains a plastic laminate layer that does not decompose

Examples:



CCA / ACQ Treated Pine

Common uses:

- Fencing, pergolas, cubbies, garden sleepers, vine-yard posts

Reason for non-compliance:

- Treated Pine contains toxic chemicals that can leach into the environment when this material is mulched.
- Must go to landfill in order to be disposed of safely



Timber products containing thick metal bolts, brackets, hinges, plate

Smart Recycling will not accept timber products that contain metal hardware thicker than 3mm as it can cause damage to the mulching machine.

Unacceptable metal hardware

- thick bolts
- brackets
- steel plate
- hooks
- reinforcing
- hinges
- metals thicker than a few millimeters

Acceptable metal hardware

- nails
- screws
- strappings
- small bolts



Examples of metal left inside a box that would have damaged the mulcher if un-detected

Examples of unacceptable metals:



General Rubbish such as cardboard, paper, plastic

When rubbish is mixed in with loads of timber waste, the contaminants must be removed before mulching. One piece of plastic going through the mulching machine can become 1000's of small pieces making it unsuitable for use.



Timber Accepted

Smart Recycling accepts the following:

- Timber pallets, boxes or crates constructed with screws or nails
- Clean builders timber waste
- Fencing timber - untreated only



Also note: Heat Treated (HT) or Methyl Bromide (MB) are acceptable treated timbers because CCA or ACQ chemicals are not used. The HT & MB treatments are used to exterminate living bugs or termites. This is a global phytosanitary requirement for all importing countries. This process does not contain any toxic chemicals that can leach in to the environment. These products are stamped, see examples below.



Should you have any questions in relation to the above content, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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