Appendix A • Waste wood categories

Waste wood is graded from A to D.

Items of waste wood which are hazardous must be segregated as grade D, before further subdivision of the non-hazardous waste into grades A to C occurs.

Grade A waste wood

Grade A waste wood must be visibly 'clean' non-hazardous waste wood from the arboriculture sector, packaging waste, scrap pallets, packing cases, cable drums and off-cuts from the manufacture of untreated wood products.

Only grade A [untreated, clean] waste wood can be used for animal bedding, as a mulch, in composting, as a fuel in wood burning stoves or other sensitive uses. Rejected grade A waste wood becomes either grade B or grade C waste wood.

Grade B waste wood

Grade B waste wood consists of non-hazardous waste wood from the production of wood-based panels; for example, chipboard and medium density fibreboard. Such wood is usually sourced from recycling centres and civic amenity sites, manufacturers of furniture and other wood products.

Rejected grade B waste wood becomes grade C waste wood.

Grade C waste wood

Grade C consist of non-hazardous waste wood sourced mainly from construction and demolition activities, recycling centres and civic amenity sites.

Grade C wood is used as a fuel in permitted co-incinerators but is not suitable for clean waste wood combustion plant.

Visibly clean grade C waste wood may also go to wood-based panel manufacture.

Source: Environment Agency - Waste Wood Quick guide 43_17 issued 02/03/2017