WRA Grades of Waste Wood

GRADE	Typical Markets	Typical Sources of raw material for recycling and/or recovery	Typical Materials	Typical non-wood content prior to processing	Notes
Grade A **Pre-Consumer Waste Wood (*1) and untreated wooden packaging = Clean un-treated**	A feedstock for the manufacture of professional and consumer products such as animal bedding, equine and landscaping surfacing. May also be used as a fuel in domestic and non-IED Chapter IV biomass installations and for the manufacture of pellets and briquettes.	Wood Product Manufacturing, Distribution, Retailing, Packaging and Secondary manufacture, e.g. joinery and pallet reclamation.	Solid softwood and hardwood. Packaging waste, scrap pallets, packing cases and cable drums. Process off-cuts from the manufacture of virgin/sawn timber and untreated board products.	Nails and metal fixings. Minor amounts of non-hazardous surface coatings, such as water-soluble paint.	This is a waste as defined by the waste regulations. Does not require an IED Chapter IV installation and should not contain any treated or low-grade material.
Grade B **Business waste wood = Treated Non-hazardous**	This is the preferred feedstock for industrial wood processing operations such as the manufacture of panel board products. Can also be used for IED Chapter IV biomass.	As Grade A, plus construction and demolition operations, skip operators, transfer stations.	May contain Grade A material as above plus building and demolition materials and domestic furniture made from solid wood.	Nails and metal fixings. Some paints, plastics, glass, grit, non-hazardous coatings, binders and glues. Limits on treated or coated materials as defined by end users and IED.	This is mostly solid wood. Some feedstock specifications contain a 5% to 10% limit on former panel products such as chipboard, MDF and plywood. Is a waste for the requirements of Waste Management Regulations. Will require an IED Chapter IV compliant installation for biomass. Any of the items listed in the WRA Waste Wood Assessment Guidance as 'Potentially Hazardous' (*2) can be stored and processed as non-hazardous under RPS 291 as long as the producer of the waste is sending them for regular testing and has a WRA Submission Report to prove it.
Grade C **Municipal waste wood = Treated Non-hazardous**	For use in the IED Chapter IV biomass installations and for panel board in controlled volumes.	All above plus municipal collections, transfer stations and HWRCs.	All of the above plus flat pack furniture made from board products and DIY materials.	Nails and metal fixings. Paints, coatings and glues, paper, plastics and rubber, glass, grit. Coated and treated timber (non CCA or creosote).	This is mostly board products. Mainly suitable for IED Chapter IV compliant biomass installations, but also suitable for panel board manufacture with correct processing and blending. Is a waste for Waste Management Regulations.Any of the items listed in the WRA Waste Wood Assessment Guidance as 'Potentially Hazardous' (*2) can be stored and processed as non-hazardous under RPS 291 as long as the producer of the waste is sending them for regular testing and has a WRA Submission Report to prove it.
Grade D **Hazardous waste wood = Treated hazardous**	Requires disposal at facilities licensed to accept hazardous waste.	Waste wood from hydraulic engineering, such as wood from docks. Waste wood from industrial applications such as cooling tower timbers, woodblock flooring or moulds. Waste wood from boats, carriages and trailer beds. Waste wood treated with CCA or creosote Any of the items listed in the WRA Waste Wood Assessment Guidance as 'Potentially Hazardous' (*2) can be stored and processed as non-hazardous under RPS 291 as long as the producer of the waste is sending them for regular testing and has a WRA Submission Report to prove it	Agricultural fencing, telegraph poles, railway sleepers. 2 Potentially hazardous waste wood items are: barge boards; external fascias; soffit boards; external joinery (wooden windows and conservatories); external doors; roof timbers; tiling and cladding battens; timber frames and joists from pre-2007 buildings	Copper chrome arsenic (CCA) preservation treatments and creosote.	These materials must be segregated and consigned as hazardous to sites permitted to accept hazardous wood. Potentially hazardous (amber) items can still be stored and processed as non-hazardous under RPS 291 as long as the producer of the waste is sending them for regular testing and has a WRA Submission Report to prove it

Clean/untreated waste wood is suitable for processing into animal bedding, panel board feedstock, landscaping or equestrian surfaces and biomass. Treated, but non-hazardous waste wood is suitable for processing as a feedstock for panel board or energy recovery in a Chapter IV compliant facility. Hazardous waste wood can only be disposed of in a facility licensed for this purpose.

1 Pre-consumer waste wood is waste wood material created during the manufacturing process of virgin wood, not involving the application of treatments, e.g. offcuts or trimmings from virgin/sawn timber. It is also waste wood material created during the manufacturing process of raw, untreated board products such as panel board, MDF and plywood (for clarity, this waste wood can only be used/burnt at source). Waste from joinery activity using these untreated wood materials is also included in this definition.

Source: The Wood Recyclers' Association, December 2023