

GUIDELINES FOR TIMBER NOT ACCEPTED 2012



The aim of this guide is to identify and explain the types of treated timber and engineered timber products that cannot be recycled at Waste Converters Recycling Depot.

Most timber that is recycled at Waste Converters is mulched in order to produce landscaping mulches for use on large tree planting projects such as freeway and roadside landscaping.

In order for us to recycle timber waste into mulch, the timber **must be free of the following items:**

MDF (Also known as Fibre board)

Commonly used to construct crates, boxes and pallets. Also commonly used to construct office furniture, kitchen and bathroom cabinets, hollow core doors and modern architraves. increasingly used in imported packaging, Roll Ends, Spacer Sheets or as a pallet tops.



Reason for non-compliance

MDF is made of engineered fibre and does not mulch effectively, but instead "puffs up" when exposed to moisture and blows around causing wind born litter on freeways and roadsides. MDF often has a laminated plastic finish that does not decompose. Vic Roads do not accept mulch with MDF content.



Masonite (Also known as Melamine)

Commonly used to construct crates, boxes and pallets. Also common as spacer sheets, doors, lining boards.

Reason for non-compliance

Masonite does not mulch effectively, but instead forms flat wafers instead of timber chips. Vic Roads do not accept mulch with Masonite content.



Masonite Sheets Commonly used in packaging.

Laminated Chipboard/Particle Board

Commonly used to construct boxes, office furniture, kitchen and bathroom cabinets.

Reason for non-compliance

Chipboard does not mulch effectively, but instead pulverises into a fine dust. The plastic laminate layer does not decompose. Vic Roads do not accept mulch with laminated particle board content.



Samples of Laminate Chipboard commonly used is cabinet making.
(samples continued on next page)



Samples of Laminate Chipboard commonly used is cabinet making.

CCA / ACQ Treated Pine

Treated Pine contains toxic chemicals that can leach into the environment when this material is mulched.

Treated pine is commonly used in fencing, pergolas, cubbies, garden sleepers and vine-yard posts.

This material must go to landfill in order to be disposed of safely.



Thick metal bolts, brackets, hinges, plate

Any metal thicker than 3mm will cause damage to the mulching machine. Nails, screws, strapping and small bolts are not a problem.

Thick bolts, brackets, steel plate, hooks, reinforcing, hinges and the like will cause damage to the mulching machine and are not accepted.

The metal parts left inside this box would have caused significant damage to the mulcher if they had not been detected.



Common Types of metal contamination include thick bolts such as those in the photo below. As a general rule, bolts must be no thicker than a few millimetres. Nails and screws are ok.



Above: Common pallet collar hinges that can cause damage to the mulcher.

General Rubbish such as cardboard, paper, plastic

It is all too common for rubbish to be mixed in with loads of timber waste. It is not possible to mulch this timber unless such contamination is removed. One piece of plastic going through the mulching machine can become 1000's of small pieces contaminating the mulch making it unsuitable for use.



In summary:

Materials **NOT** accepted are:

- MDF
- Masonite
- Laminated Chipboard
- CCA/ACQ Treated Pine
- Plastic, Cardboard, Paper and other general rubbish
- Large metal brackets, bolts, hinges, etc..

Tipping of loads containing any of the above items will incur a surcharge based on the disposal cost of the items in question.

Badly contaminated loads will not be accepted.

Damage to mulching equipment caused by metal found in loads will also result in repair costs being passed onto those responsible for the contaminated waste.

The Mulching Process

The clean timber is fed to the mulching tub grinder and the resultant mulch is used in roadside landscaping projects.



Any questions in relation to any of the above please contact:

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