

GRUNDON

# What is **POPS WASTE** and how to **SAFELY** manage it

If waste with POPs is not managed responsibly,  
it can cause damage to the wider environment.

Read on to discover how you can safely  
manage POPs waste



# What are POPs?

**Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** are highly toxic chemicals that pose significant risks to human health and the environment. In upholstered furniture, POPs are commonly found in the form of brominated fire retardants.



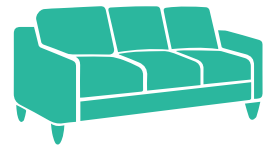
armchairs



dining chairs



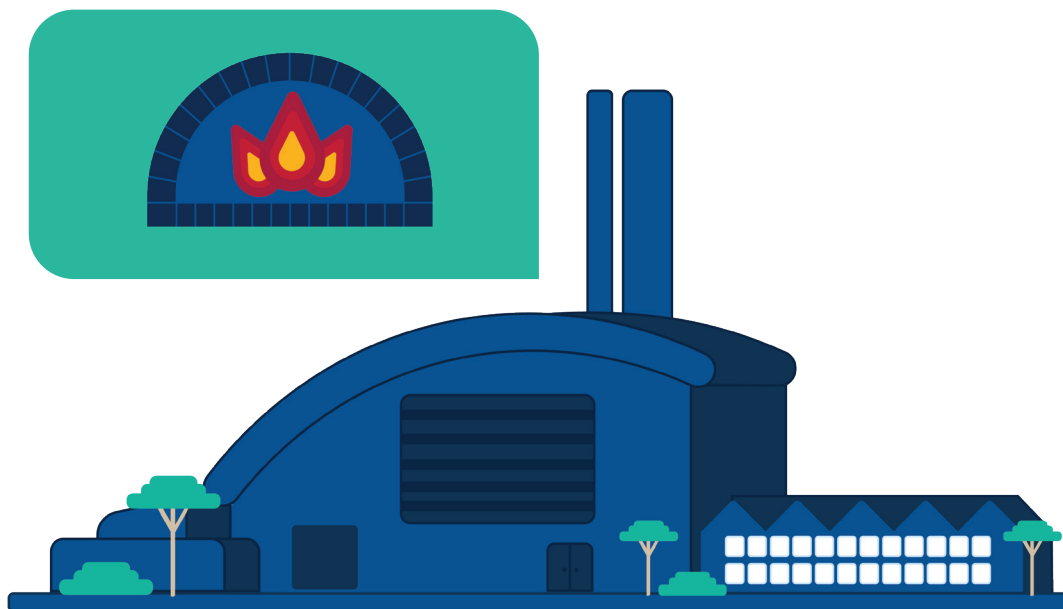
office chairs



sofas

## How to safely dispose of POPs waste

Upholstered furniture containing POPs cannot be recycled, landfilled or reused. The only safe disposal method is incineration to ensure complete destruction of these harmful chemicals.



Energy-from-Waste (EfW) plants operate at temperatures exceeding 1000°C, effectively destroying the flame retardants. This process also includes the shredding of waste, with additional control measures to reduce the risk of POPs entering the environment.

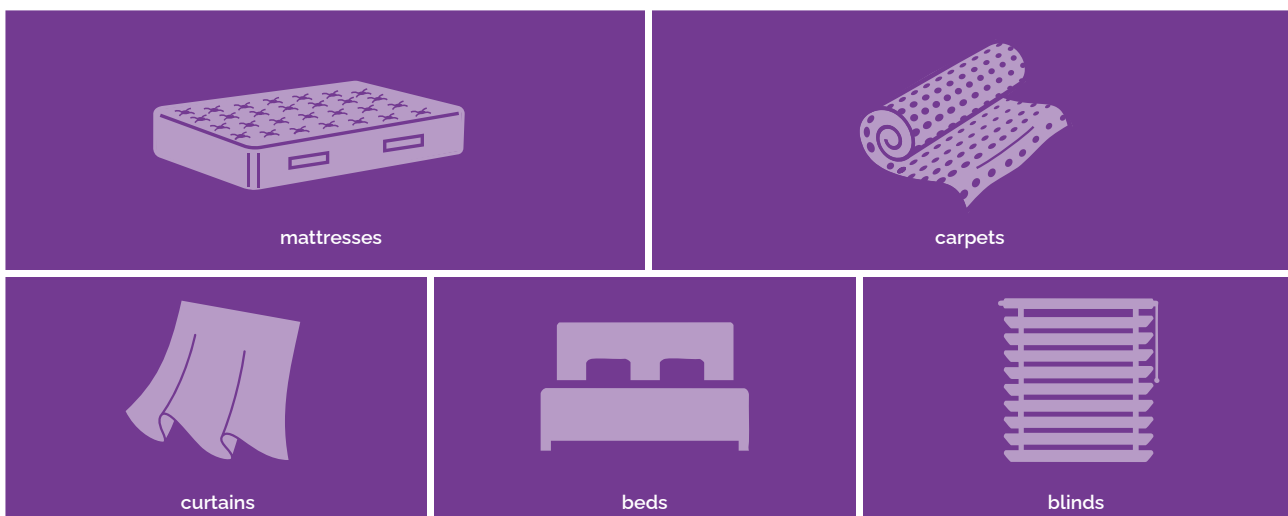
# Identifying items with POPs

**X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) scanners** are used to identify POP-free upholstered furniture; however, these devices are expensive and require specialised training to operate. As a result, all upholstered furniture should be treated as containing POPs.

**Below are examples of upholstered furniture covered under POPs:**



**Items that are NOT considered POPs are:**



# Your responsibility as a waste producer

As a waste producer, it is your responsibility to know whether the waste you produce may contain POPs.

If it can be evidenced by MSDS or import documentation that the waste does not contain POPs, then they can be treated as general waste.

If it is not known explicitly, then it must be assumed that the waste does contain POPs and is disposed of accordingly.

**Remember to always label your transfer notes clearly to indicate potential POPs content before disposal and adhere to separate storage and disposal protocols.**

## Best practices for handling POPs waste

POPs waste must be handled and transported separately. If any non-POPs waste becomes mixed with other waste streams, then the entire load must be treated as POPs waste.

Store POPs waste securely to prevent damage or contamination.

## Waste classification for POPs

In your waste transfer note you must describe the waste as 'domestic seating waste containing POPs' and classify it with the European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code 20 03 07.

For official guidelines, visit: **GOV.UK**

For expert advice, contact **[sales@grundon.com](mailto:sales@grundon.com)**