



The touch WOOD Recycling Guide



"Touch Wood can collect wood waste from your sites at significantly lower costs than using skips"



With your help, we can:

- Save you money on disposal costs
- Save resources
- Create work for disadvantaged people

Wood Waste Collection Scheme

An Introduction to the Service

Where it all began

Touch Wood is part of the EMERGE 3Rs charity and is operated by its social enterprise, EMERGE Recycling. In April 2013, we started the Touch Wood recycling venture as a member of the National Community Wood Recycling Project (NCWRP). We provide a cost-effective collection service for all types of waste wood from building sites. Our aim is to save resources by reusing and recycling used timber and to create jobs, training and volunteering opportunities for disadvantaged people.

The benefits to you

Save money and make an even greater contribution to sustainability. Specifically you can:

- Cut your waste disposal costs**
- Save valuable resources and reduce energy use and pollution**
- Help bring skills and training to disadvantaged people**
- Help fulfil your CSR and Environmental Policy commitments**

Call us on 0161 223 8200 for full details of our collection areas and how you can work with us to build a more sustainable future!

How the system works

We bring the wood back to our depot in Manchester, where it is sorted and divided between stock for sale to our customers and stock for our workshop. This reduces the carbon footprint of the construction industry provides, cost savings for DIY enthusiasts and work opportunities to our volunteers.

In the workshop Touch Wood's qualified joiners work with and provide support and training to our volunteers, often job-seekers. The team takes great pride in their work and produce wooden products to a very high standard, for sale to the public. This helps to improve volunteers' confidence and self-esteem and gain or improve transferable skills that will help them get into paid employment, making way for a new team of volunteers.

We currently collect from hundreds of sites and would love to work with you too. Just give us a call on 0161 223 8200 or email wood@emergemanchester.co.uk



Main Areas Covered



Primary - Greater Manchester

Secondary - Surrounding Area

To register for the scheme, book a collection, make a comment or for any further information, please do not hesitate to call the collections team on **0161 223 8200**

Wood Waste Collection Scheme

Operating the scheme on your site

Registering on the scheme or ordering a collection

To register your site, simply contact us (details below). We will get the collection manager to call you promptly to arrange a collection time or to discuss your needs. He/she will become your contact for the first and all subsequent collections.

To guarantee a prompt service from our enterprises, please supply us with a purchase order before your first wood waste collection.

Setting up a wood bay

The ideal place to store all your waste wood is as near as possible to the general skip(s). This will assist site workers in choosing the wood pile rather than anywhere else. The bay only needs to be around 3 metres square and, if possible, confined by Heras fencing. It should be accessible to our vehicle – ideally, we need to park beside it. There is no need to cover the wood. When there is about a skip load, give us a call and we will collect; our trucks hold 12 yds³ and 37 yds³.

What wood can be collected?

We collect all waste timber, wood composites, furniture, wooden items (regardless of type, condition or contamination — except creosoted). Nails, screws, door furniture, fixings, pallet fastenings and other metal contamination pose no problem. We can take other potentially reusable material, such as ducting, insulation and spare fixings — just speak to the collection manager. If in doubt, don't worry, just put it in the pile and we will sort it when we collect.

We can't do one-off collections comprised of just fire-doors, old kitchen units or similar for our usual rates, as they have no reuse potential (they can all be recycled though). Please discuss such requirements with your collection manager.

Collection turn-around time and load size

Normal collection hours are between 9am and 5pm — although earlier/later collections can be arranged. Around 90% of our collections are carried out within 48 hours of notification.

Environmental reporting and certification

To help fulfil your environmental obligations, Site Waste Management Plans and inform staff, customers and shareholders, we provide monthly analysis of the timber collected from your site. We will send you a Site Reuse and Recycling Summary outlining what has happened to the actual wood collected. In addition, we can send a Consolidated Summary showing information from all your sites.

Each site can also get a Certificate of Recycling stating the total volume of timber saved; these are useful for staff motivation and public relations needs.

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Wood Waste Collection Scheme

Frequently asked questions



Q Our skip company recycles the wood, so what's the point of using you?

We'll probably be a bit cheaper, but most importantly, your waste wood will be reused (not just 'down-cycled' into chips) and we create work for disadvantaged people — so you get real 'added value'.

Q Is it as good value as a skip?

We load our trucks as tightly as possible, so you don't get the void space of up to 20% that you get with skips. For soil or rubble, a skip is good value, but not for bulky stuff like wood and pallets. With us you get best value every time — as well as all of the other benefits too!

Q Why can't you leave me a skip?

Our way of collecting might seem unorthodox, but it is the most environmentally friendly way possible — as less fuel is used, less pollution generated and more material can be saved for reuse. And as we can take up to 37yd³ in one go, there will be fewer vehicle movements on your site.

Q What if I am not sure what you will take?

We take all wood/wood-based product — including MDF, chipboard and preservative-treated timber (except creosoted). Don't worry if you're not sure, just put it in the pile and we'll sort it when we collect. Nails, screws, fixtures and fittings and pallet fastenings etc. are all acceptable. Any wood we can't reuse goes to chipping firms with facilities to remove the metal from the chips.

Q Do you take other stuff?

Yes, probably. We will often take other things that are potentially re-usable. For example, we have taken insulation materials, ducting, spare fixings etc. on the same basis. Just ask the collection team when they come to collect. If we can save it from going in the skip, all well and good!

Q Can you collect at short notice?

Same-day or next day collections are often possible. In any event, we'll do our best never to keep you waiting for longer than 48 hours. We want your business, so we will work hard for it.

Q Are you properly licensed and insured?

We are Registered Waste Carriers, have Safe Contractor and Contractor Plus accreditation & have Environmental Permit Exemptions and Employers and Public Liability Insurance. We provide proper Waste Transfer Notes and a full audit trail.

Q Building sites are dangerous, can you adhere to our strict H&S procedures?

Absolutely! Our collection staff carry their CSCS cards, always wear the right PPE and get on-going training. We can provide Risk Assessments and Method Statements.

Q What sort of people will benefit from our involvement?

Your involvement will result in life-changing opportunities for a wide range of disadvantaged people who will gain confidence and self-esteem and learn a range of useful transferable skills enabling them to get back to work. People we help include ex-offenders, those with mild mental health or learning difficulties and people who have come through drug and alcohol abuse.

Call us NOW for a QUOTE on 0161 223 8200

Wood Waste Collection Scheme

Who's involved

Some of our many collection customers

As members of NCWRP we have worked with some of the biggest names in Construction who have already recognised us as a service that offers value for money, impeccable professionalism, all while delivering a commendable social achievement.

National/regional builders

- BAM Construction
- BAM Nuttall
- Bouygues UK
- Breyer Group
- Carillion
- Castleoak
- Galliford Try
- Interserve
- Kier Group
- Laing O'Rourke
- Leadbitter
- Mace Group
- Morgan Sindall
- Skanska
- Taylor Wimpey
- Warings Group
- Wates
- Willmott Dixon

“We've been involved for more than two years. We trialled it on a couple of sites and within a couple of weeks it was clear that they were a professional outfit and that [the service] would provide us with a cost benefit and provide some good CSR benefits for the company”.

Steve Troubridge
HSE Manager, Breyer Group PLC

“We think the Community Wood Recycling scheme is fantastic. The service not only supports our environmental aims, it also helps meet our local community objectives by supporting disadvantaged people back to work. It's good to know our waste wood is going to good use, and is good value too!”

Charlie Law Head of Environment,
BAM Construction

“I think it is great that this place exists, where they are not just doing something good for the environment – but it is a whole social enterprise helping the community and the people who live here.”

Oliver Heath
Eco-designer and TV presenter

Other organisations

- American Express
 - Aviva
 - BHS
- Environment Agency
 - Gap Clothing
- Legal & General Insurance
 - Midland Bank PLC
 - Primark Clothing
 - Securicor Omega
 - Sussex University

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At the Touch Wood Recycling Project we work hard to provide the best environmental option for all the timber we collect. But just as important is the role we play in helping disadvantaged people gain the skills and confidence needed to get back into work or play a valuable part in society.

Touch Wood has received a small grant from The Big Lottery for the Touch Wood Training – Re-using Wood and Re-training Volunteers Project. 32 volunteers will be recruited to participate in a rolling 12-week training programme. We will provide practical on-the-job training focusing on wood reuse and recycling. Qualified, experienced trainers will be employed on a project basis to support, skill-share, advise and give detailed instruction on technical and practical aspects of the complete process from initial assessment, rework and design, through to product sale and handling bespoke commissions for furniture. At the end of the training, volunteers will have gained an NVQ level 2.

Luke Dobson became a Touch Wood volunteer in 2014, having been unsuccessful in gaining employment for some time. Since joining Touch Wood his training has included the use of hand tools, power tools and Luke is producing quality wooden products.

Luke enjoys the discipline, and responsibility that he has gained at Touch Wood. "I enjoy being part of the team and my confidence has really improved. At present I am being trained to drive a forklift truck and am looking forward to starting an NVQ Level 2 course in warehousing and storage in June."



Anonymous Case - 5 years unemployed

He manages his health and depression conditions. His target is to get a warehouse operative role. "I've applied for so many jobs but you don't hear anything back. I feel like I'm hitting my head against a wall. Volunteering keeps me active, I've gained more skills, I help new volunteers and I do stock control. When I first came here I'd say my depression state was 0 now it's an 8, I have off days, because of the knock backs but volunteering keeps me going."

For information on volunteering, please call us on 0161 223 8200

Wood Waste Collection Scheme

Wood Recycling in action

Free design service

Touch Wood is a firmly established and trusted supplier to schools, nurseries and children's centres, as well as homeowners and businesses. So, if you are planning your outdoor area or would like to discuss a bespoke product of any sort, please take the time to look at our product range, contact Touch Wood for our friendly service, take advantage of our free design service and begin your journey with us.

The Touch Wood team are on hand to offer inspiration and free advice.



Unpacking the Van at the depot



Mark finishing a bespoke garden bench.



A truck of beams to be offloaded, sorted and stacked.



Pallet furniture: Garden Shed



Scaffold board Bench planter

Wood being brought back to our yard to be sorted for resale and reuse



Large herb box: High level planters



Scaffold board farm shop display unit



Garden picnic bench

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