



Product Sustainability Questionnaire for 'The Recycle Works' Suppliers

Wooden Modular Compost Bin

Product related questions:

Does your product have independent sustainability certification? For example Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or certified organic.

All the wood used in manufacture is Scandinavian white wood sourced from an [FSC Certified](#) small family owned forest near to the Arctic in Sweden. All wood is totally traceable. Wood is slow grown for strength and durability. White Wood has a denser grain than pine and is more durable.

Manufacture:

2) Do you manufacture your product in the UK?

Manufactured in UK using local labour

Yes

3) Do you use local labour?

Yes

4) Do you measure the

a) energy use: TBC

b) water use: Yes

c) direct greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacture of your product? TBC

If yes, what is the usage per unit of production for:

a) Kw hours: TBC

b) litres Water use: 0.16lt per unit

c) tonnes/CO2 equivalent: TBC

5) Do you measure the material wasted from the manufacture of your product?

Yes

If yes, what is the wastage per unit?

10gr sawdust

6) Do you recycle waste materials?

All wooden waste can be and is reused in one way or another. Plastic waste is sent for regrind and reused. Sawdust goes for animal bedding locally.

Materials:

7) Do you source the materials for your product from the UK or from abroad?

Composition per unit

Wood: 99.54%,

Recyclable polypropylene: 0.46%.

If from the UK:

How far do your materials come? - 7 miles

If from abroad: Europe

What is the country of origin? Sweden

If that country has a history of human rights or environmental abuse, do you seek to ensure your suppliers behave in a responsible manner?

N/A, also FSC addresses all environmental matters.

8) Do you seek to use materials with independent certification? For example, Fairtrade, All Wood is [FSC Certificated](#) and fully traceable. Fair Trade and sustainable micro-climates are part of this assessment

9) Do you seek to use environmentally benign materials in your product wherever possible? Please explain. For example, the use of water over solvent based paint.

All wooden products are carefully sourced and protected with a non-toxic water based preservative. This protects the operator, the Environment, the reuse of waste, bugs and worms working in the compost and the plants in the garden.

10) What is your average contract length with your suppliers?

We source and purchase locally where possible and contracts are on-going. We have been using the current wood contractor for 10 years.

Product use:

11) Do you deem the use of your product to have a positive or negative impact on the environment? Please explain.

Positive. All wooden products are manufactured by The Recycle Works on our premises here in Bee Mill, Ribchester.

Because we work under the banner **Love Your Environment** we are very conscious of source, quantity and quality of raw materials. In addition the use of the Wooden Modular Compost Bin is very important indeed and we believe that all of our wooden products have a direct environmental benefit in use. They have a good life span and are recyclable and biodegradable. They are used to enable healthy food to be grown in compost that has been made from waste household materials generated on the site of the fruit/vegetable plot.

Organic waste is the most important waste. If it is not separated and gets into the waste stream along with waste metals, for example, the combination will create toxic methane gasses and poisonous leachate which may poison that part of earth for eons. Materials used are environmentally sound. Wood is sourced from FSC Accredited forests in Europe. It is slow grown for lasting properties and treated with a water based non toxic preservative.

Further these wooden Compost Bins are adaptable for use as a Wheelchair Raised Bed and for stand-up gardening for children and enable people with special needs to GYO in comfort.

12) Does the product require energy to operate i.e. electricity or fuel?

None

13) What is the estimated life span of your product?

Up to 10 years if sited in a well aired, ventilated position where the wood can dry out after being soaked by the weather. The lifespan can be lengthened by treating with non toxic preservative every few years and replacing any parts that have already started to decompose and are available for a small cost on our website.

14) How easy would it be for you to extend the life span of you product with for example the use of different materials?

Plastic is the obvious replacement material, but the lifespan is usually less. No reparations are possible. It would be useless if any part broke. In many instances plastic Compost Bins will not, or are slow to decompose compostable materials. Further, wood is kinder to and makes much better compost as it insulates. Wood maintains a constant temperature and will not sweat enabling worms to work all year round. Extend the lifespan by placing in a well aired position where there is good ventilation. Extend the life by replacing worn parts.

15) Is the finished product recyclable at the end of life?

Yes, and decomposes naturally thereby enriching the earth below.