



THE PALLET RECYCLING GUIDE

An environmentally friendly and cost-saving initiative
your business can implement today.

-
- ▶ Raise the value of your supply chain.
 - ▶ Environmentally friendly.

2021 Edition



WHAT IS PALLET RECYCLING?

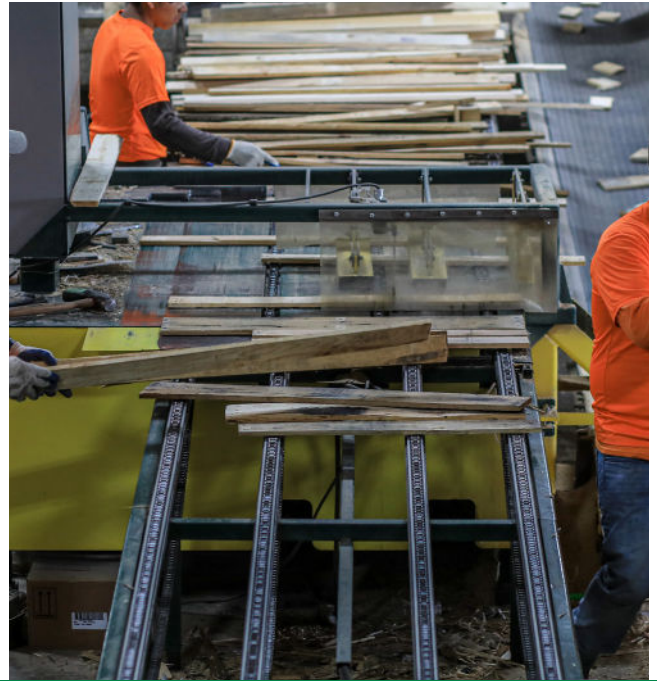
Pallet recycling is the act of taking pallets that would normally end up in landfills, or take up warehouse space, and extending their life through initiatives that pallet companies like Kamps have in place.

Pallets that are recycled can be

- Repaired and reused immediately
- Dismantled and components harvested to build remanufactured pallets.
- Used to feed mulch, bark, and other landscaping product operations.

Pallet recycling creates a circular economy that benefits all involved.

Pallets are not a single use product.



THE BENEFITS OF PALLET RECYCLING

Pallet recycling benefits your business and our planet.

ENSURES LOWER COSTS

Recycled pallets can cost up to 30% less than new pallets. By recycling pallets, your business is doing its part to ensure that there are enough recycled pallets in circulation at all times.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Recycling pallets reduces new lumber usage, helps minimize landfill waste, and releases far less harmful green-house gas emissions than new pallets.

CAN GENERATE REVENUE

Depending on the condition and size / style of the pallet, certain pallets can be sold to pallet companies like Kamps.



WHAT HAPPENS TO A RECYCLED PALLET?

Top 3 ways a pallet can be re-used.



Types of Pallets Used

Slightly damaged or near perfect condition pallets that require minor repairs such as: plugs, staples, and other repairs.



Types of Pallets Used

Odd-sized pallets or those that cannot be repaired. Pallets are cut to various sizes and components are used to build other pallets.



Types of Pallets Used

“Scrap” pallets. These are pallets that are at the end of their life-cycle and would otherwise end up in a landfill.

When & Where Product is Used

Pallets can be re-introduced immediately after repairs and inspections are completed.

When & Where Product is Used

Pallets can be reintroduced immediately after they are built and inspections are completed.

When & Where Product is Used

Mulch and bark can be used immediately and is most often used for landscaping projects and playgrounds.

Terminology

Plug (Companion Stringer)

A piece of a stringer which is inserted into a pallet and nailed next to an existing stringer that is damaged.

Wood not suitable for bark or mulch can still be used for renewable energy as biomass / boiler fuel

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

PALLET RECYCLING MAKES A CARBON NEUTRAL PALLET POSSIBLE

An Environmental Product Declaration released by the NWPCA in 2020, in partnership with the Pallet Foundation and Forest Products Lab, provides quantifiable evidence that pallet recycling and recycled pallets are more environmentally friendly than new pallets.

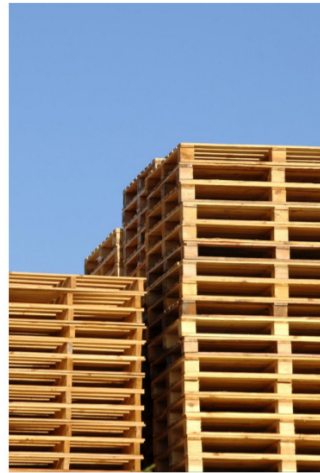
The UL certified document also determines that proper end-of-life recycling initiatives, such as the ones mentioned in this guide, offset the greenhouse gas emissions for the entire pallet life-cycle - resulting in the potential for a carbon-neutral product.

[MORE INFO ON EPD >](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

WOODEN PALLETS

PALLET FOUNDATION
NATIONAL WOODEN PALLET & CONTAINER ASSOCIATION



The Pallet Foundation and the National Wooden Pallet & Container Association (NWPCA) are pleased to present an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for U.S. wooden pallets. EPDs provide consumers with transparent and product-specific environmental information through independent validation.

The first of its kind in the distribution packaging space, this EPD includes Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) results for all life stages of wooden pallets from cradle to grave, including production, use and end-of-life stages. The underlying LCA and the EPD have been verified under the UL Environment EPD program and were developed in compliance with ISO 14025:2006 and ISO 14040/44.

The Pallet Foundation supports research, education, and training in the wood packaging industry and NWPCA represents wooden pallet producers across the U.S. We have known for decades that wood pallets are repairable, reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable, but now, we have validated the positive environmental attributes of wooden pallets in a certifiable, transparent way. On top of UL's first-ever Product Category Rules for wooden pallets, we are confident that this EPD will inform supply chain sustainability initiatives leading to the increased specification and use of wood products.



Sustainable Forestry in Pallet Industry Benefits Our Forests

Forest cover has been steadily increasing in North America and currently stands at **1,600,000,000 acres**.

Source: National Wood & Pallet Container Association, 2016.

**20
20**
**GREEN
SCORE
CARD**

By recycling 70+ million pallets last year, we saved



3,590,370
trees



1,404,830
tons of landfill waste



1,920,380
tons of CO2 emissions

INITIATIVES YOU CAN IMPLEMENT

How your organization can get involved.



Pallet Recycling Programs

Programs consisting of regularly scheduled pick-ups or drop-trailers by a pallet company at your facility.



Pallet Management Programs

An assortment of programs where pallets are picked-up, taken to be repaired or remanufactured, and then pallets are delivered back to your facility to be re-used. The pallet company manages your pallet inventory.



On-Site Pallet Services

A program where the pallet company provides its own labor at your facility to repair, build, and manage your pallet inventory.

Scrap Pallet Pick-up (Drop-off)

Recommended for businesses with inconsistent flow of pallets or low quality of pallets. Pallets are usually picked up by the pallet company at little or no cost to your business.

Kamps Pallets has the ability to provide all programs listed above at an expert level - with over 45 years of experience.



DIFFICULT TO RECYCLE MATERIALS

Pallets built with materials that are difficult to recycle may either carry a charge or be rejected by a pallet recycling company.



Plywood

Thin wooden sheet consisting of two or more layers glued & pressed together.



Medium Density Fiberboard

Machine dried, composite material, made from recycled wood fibers and resin.



Laminate

Made from high-density fiberboard that is reinforced with resin.

Luan (Lauan)

Thin plywood panel made by gluing together layers of tropical hardwood veneer.

Particle Board

Sheets made from compressed wood chips and resin, often coated or veneered.

Oriented Strand Board (OSB)

Engineered wood product formed by rectangular wood strands arranged in cross-oriented layers with the help of waterproof adhesives.

Inca / Pressboard Pallets

Made from recycled corrugated fiberboard and molded under a hot compression process.

Other Difficult to Recycle Materials

Paper, plastic, and cardboard materials

Painted, stained, or pressure treated wood.