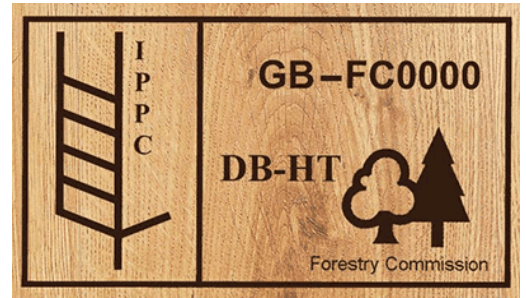


# Recycling Pallets - UK

A mixture of hardwoods and softwoods, such as oak and pine, are used to make pallets because of their availability and durability. Commonly the wood used has been rejected for use as general timber because it has irregularities eg. Wonky grain or not straight. Different wood species are used in different countries of origin. Biological hazards such as boring beetles and fungi are present in some unregulated far eastern pallets.



**Up-cycling or re-cycling pallets in an institution like a school requires the user to identify and control exposure to any substances which might cause harm to people in their care (COSHH Regulations)**

The Country of origin is indicated by a two-letter identifier often followed by six digits of the maker eg.

<b>GB</b>	<b>FR</b>	<b>DE</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>PL</b>	<b>AU</b>	<b>EPAL</b>	<b>US</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>EUR</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>CN</b>	<b>VN</b>	<b>TW</b>	<b>KR</b>	<b>KP</b>
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**Biological hazard:** The green origin marks are probably OK – avoid the amber/red origin pallets

**Additional markings** include:

<b>IPPC</b>	(International Plant Protection Convention)	Good
<b>DB</b>	Timber de-barked before use to remove pests	Good
<b>HT</b>	Heat Treated to remove pests and infections	Good
<b>KD</b>	Kiln Dried to remove pests and infections	Good
<b>MB</b>	Treated with Methyl Bromide to kill pests	Very Bad – Avoid
<b>SF</b>	Sulfuryl Fluoride to kill pests	Very Bad – Avoid
<b>CP</b>	Used for carrying Chemicals	Very Bad – Avoid

**Chemical Hazard:** The harm from chemicals is very severe – avoid such pallets.

Note that un-marked older pallets with a rustic brown look may have been treated with Methyl Bromide and remain very harmful indefinitely.

Additional marks on pallets may indicate the manufacturers branding, the load capacity, licence to manufacture, quality grade, environmental markings or usage eg. Chemical industry.

**Coloured Pallets.** Makers paint or dye pallets either to indicate ownership or specific use with chemicals. If you are not **clear** that the colour is safe do not use.

<b>Blue</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Brown</b>	<b>Black</b>
Owned by the CHEP company	Owned by LPR company	Reserved for Specific industries	Eco-friendly recycled wood etc.	Owned by IPP Logipal	Heavy duty industrial use
Toxic blue dye. Return to owner	Toxic Red dye. Return to owner	Bright colours = Toxic Chemicals		Toxic Brown dye. Return to owner	

**Sizes:** There are six internationally recognised sizes of pallets. UK Standard Pallets are 1200x1000mm and have two or four entry points. UK Standard Grade 1 (or Grade A) – 1 tonne. Grade 2 (or Grade B) 750kg. Grade 3 (or Grade C/Lightweight) 200kg >500kg.

Euro Pallets are slightly smaller than those from the UK. They are 1200x800mm. You can usually identify these pallets by the 'EPAL' or 'EUR' quality marks. EPAL are safer.