



Wood Chip Re-Use and “Upcycling” for Animal Bedding

At Full Cycle Enterprises, we are always looking for new ways to service our customers and our community, especially when it comes to products and services related to recycling or, as we like to call it, “upcycling” our earth’s precious resources.

Recently, wood chips landed on our radar screen as a product and service ecosystem to which we could add upcycling value and we’ve made it our mission to create a circular marketplace for this abundant, natural resource.

We offer tree maintenance companies an affordable and accessible option to manage their daily wood chip production. We then convert those wood chips into a number of valuable products like:

- **Unscreened Wood Chips** for animal bedding to serve the farming community.
- **Screened Wood Chip Fines** to serve the waste industry as a solidification agent.
- **Biochar** made from incinerated Wood Chips.

This white paper focuses on the benefits of using Wood Chips for animal bedding while comparing their use to other products in the marketplace. To learn more, contact Full Cycle Enterprises at (414) 421-0070 or info@fullcycleent.com

The Benefits of Using Wood Chips for Animal Bedding

For many farmers and pet owners, the choice of bedding material is a crucial decision that impacts the health, comfort, and well-being of their animals. Among the myriad of options available, wood chips have emerged as a sustainable and effective solution. Let's delve into the benefits of using wood chips for animal bedding and how they compare to other materials.

1. Absorption and Odor Control: Wood chips are known for their excellent absorption properties. They can effectively soak up moisture, ensuring that the bedding remains dry and comfortable for animals. This high absorbency also aids in odor control, as moisture often contributes to unpleasant smells. When compared to other materials like straw or hay, wood chips tend to retain moisture better and control odors more effectively.

[Source](#)

2. Cost-Effective: Wood chips can be a cost-effective bedding solution, especially in areas where they are readily available. In southeastern Wisconsin, for instance, the availability of wood chips from local sources can make them a more affordable option compared to imported bedding materials.

3. Easy Disposal: Used wood chips can be composted, turning them into a valuable resource for gardening and farming. This eco-friendly disposal method contrasts with other bedding materials that might not decompose as easily.

4. Suitable for Various Animals: Wood chips are versatile and can be used for a range of animals, from livestock like cows and horses to smaller pets like rabbits and guinea pigs. However, it's essential to ensure the type of wood used is safe for the specific animal. For instance, some woods, like cherry, can be toxic. [Source](#)

5. Sustainability: Using wood chips as bedding material offers an eco-friendly solution. It promotes the use of a renewable resource and, when sourced responsibly, doesn't contribute to deforestation.

Comparing Wood Chips to Other Bedding Materials:

- **Straw or Hay:** While these are traditional bedding materials, they might not offer the same level of absorption as wood chips. They can also be more prone to mold growth if they become damp.
- **Cedar and Pine Shavings:** These softwood shavings are popular because of their pleasant smell and natural insecticidal properties. However, some animals might be sensitive to the aromatic compounds they release. [Source](#)
- **Sawdust:** While sawdust is also absorbent, it can be dusty, which might cause respiratory issues in some animals.

Conclusion: For those in the southeastern Wisconsin farming community and beyond, wood chips present a compelling option for animal bedding. They combine sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and functionality, ensuring that animals have a comfortable and healthy living environment. As with any bedding material, it's essential to monitor animals for any signs of allergies or discomfort and choose wood types that are safe for the specific species.

Further Reading and Sources:

1. [Bedding Options for Livestock and Equine - The Center for Agriculture](#)
2. [Wood Chip Animal Bedding: Sustainable Options for Livestock and Pets](#)

3. [Types of Animal Bedding and Their Benefits | Klassen Wood Co.](#)
4. [Cedar Chips and Pine Wood Shavings as Bedding - The Spruce Pets](#)
5. [Can you use wood chips for cow bedding? - Arew](#)

To learn more about this or any other of our products, please feel free to call us, email us, or just stop in and talk to us.



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