

# Bedding With Dried Woodchips

Dried woodchips are readily available as a huge amount of dryers have been installed under the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). To find a source the easiest place to look is the Biomass suppliers List (BSL) <https://biomass-suppliers-list.service.gov.uk/>, simply enter the postcode and select woodchip as the fuel and all the closest suppliers will come up. You can then contact them and see who has a dryer, (almost all do).

It depends how dry you need it as to the price. For bedding purposes I would suggest you buy it by the volume (m<sup>3</sup>) and set the maximum moisture content in the contract (10-15% moisture wet basis is probably as dry as you can get it in the winter). Weight is less meaningful as woodchip has a very variable moisture content. For bedding purposes it is the coverage over the floor which is important (hence volume)

The going rate for 25% moisture softwood chip (which is the most common moisture for biomass fuel) is between £85-£110 per tonne not including delivery. This equates to about £18-22/m<sup>3</sup>. At 10% moisture the price doesn't increase that much. So I would budget it at about £20-£25/m<sup>3</sup> not including delivery.

The cost as a bedding is very dependent on the depth it is applied at. When it is dried down to 10-15% it can absorb a huge amount of liquid, so some people apply it at only 100 mm or so, but I've seen sites with it about 300 mm deep. Old material is only occasionally removed, just new stuff is put on top as required, and some places have kept the bedding over winter and re used it the following year (depends on if the site has place to store it). This can make the price competitive with straw. However disposal to land has to be considered as it takes 2 – 4 years to rot down.

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