

Research on Recovery Options for Opus Metal Filing and Storage Products

UNICOR Office Furniture Group (OFG) has been producing high-quality metal filing at its Milan, Michigan, manufacturing plant since 2000. We strive to produce durable products that have a long and beneficial life span.

Like any product when it reaches its end of useful life, the question becomes, “How can the product be best put to future use?” More specifically, “How can the materials be recovered or recycled?” The purpose of this research and investigative paper is to share with our valued customers the recovery and recycling options available for our legacy metal filing and storage products.

What are the Opus Metal Filing and Storage Products?

UNICOR OFG produces a line of metal filing units for purchase by Federal agencies under the product line name of Opus. Our customers can select various color and size configurations of the following legacy models:

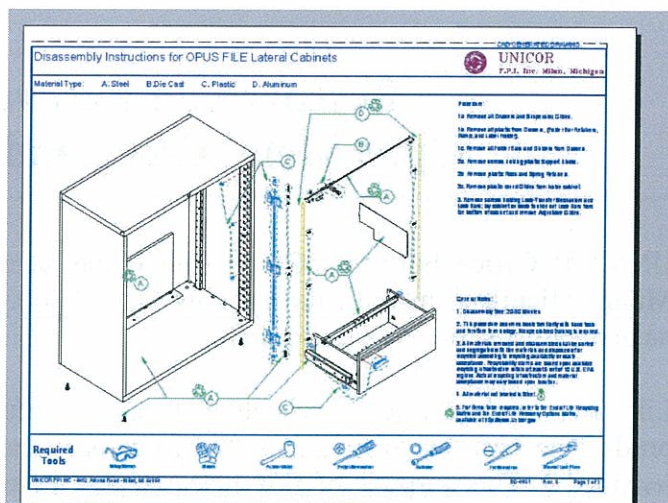
| Models | Configurations | Model Number Begins With: | Dates Sold |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Lateral Files | Standard Laterals | LATFF or ZZLATFF | 2000 - Present |
| | Media Posts | LATFFMP | 2000 - Present |
| | Storage Cabinets | CIL | 2013 - Present |
| | Kiosk Units | KIOSK | 2000 - Present |
| Pedestals | Freestanding | PEDFP | 2000 - Present |
| | Mobile | PEDMP or ZZPEDMP | 2000 - Present |
| | Modified Mobile | PEDMPFF24RFM | 2000 - Present |
| | Hanging | PEDHP or ZZPEDHP | 2000 - Present |
| | Worksurface-Supporting | PEDWSP | 2000 - Present |
| Bookcases | Standard Bookcases | BC | 2000 - Present |
| Vertical Files | Standard Verticals | VER or ZZVER | 2000 - Present |

What are the High Value Recovery Opportunities for our Products?

An excellent quality of our legacy metal filing and storage products is that over the past decade they have retained a consistent design and material composition, both of which lend themselves easily to recovery and recycling since over 95% of the weight is comprised of cold-rolled steel (ASTM-A-1008, ASTM-A-1018, and ASTM-A-336).

An added benefit of our product's consistent design and material composition is the ease with which customers can disassemble and dispose of the units. Our publically available disassembly instructions outline the tools required for disassembly, specific part identification numbers, and information regarding material content.

You can find disassembly instructions for all our legacy metal filing and storage products at www.unicorofg.com.



Recovery Resources Available to our Customers

The components that make up our legacy metal filing products were classified as “recyclable” only if they met several criteria, including the verification of existing recycling infrastructure in at least six out of ten United States Environmental Protection Agency regions. Current recycling infrastructure was assessed through the use of an online database (www.recyclingmarkets.net) of recycling centers using the following search criteria:

- Commodity = "SCRAP METALS"
- Activity = "RECYCLING CENTER"
- Materials Handled = "FERROUS (ALL GRADES)"

The search results identified 641 companies throughout North America. This vast array of opportunities for steel recycling is reflective of the widespread prevalence and accessibility for metal recycling infrastructure.

Utilizing both the disassembly instructions and the listing of recycling facilities that accept the metals that make up 95% of our products, customers will find it convenient and cost-efficient to recycle their units.

Contact Us

We hope that this research aids in our customers finding useful end of life opportunities so that the materials from which our products are made can be reused and reinserted into commerce. Please feel free to contact one of our Industrial Specialists at (570) 544-7341 if you have any questions. We are always looking for opportunities to serve our customers, reduce our environmental footprint, and improve the sustainability of our manufacturing processes.