



## PRESS RELEASE

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## **Mattress Warehouse, Mattress King, Sleep Outfitters parent company recycles 32,000 mattresses in 2014**

### **Company keeps 2.4 million pounds of waste out of communities' landfills**

WINFIELD, W.VA. – Innovative Mattress Solutions (iMS), the parent company of mattress retailers Mattress Warehouse, Mattress King and Sleep Outfitters, diverted 2.4 million pounds of mattress waste from community landfills in 2014.

“Discarded mattresses are causing problems in our nation’s landfills,” says iMS CEO and founder Kim Knopf. “We are one of the few retailers that voluntarily recycle used mattresses. We are doing what we can to help our communities’ environment and recycle old mattresses for new and useful purposes.”

Last year the company recycled 32,000 used mattresses taken from customers’ homes after the purchase of a new one.

Of those, some 21,000 mattresses and box springs, constituting nearly 1.6 million pounds of waste, were sent to [Spring Back Recycling](#) in Nashville, Tenn. where the beds are deconstructed and the materials sold for new and different uses. About 90 percent of mattress materials can be recycled. For instance, cotton and foam from the mattress may be turned into carpet padding or insulation. The wood may become landscaping mulch and the steel springs are melted down for other uses.

“A mattress that can take decades to decompose in a landfill can be deconstructed for recycling in minutes,” says Knopf.

About 11,000 mattresses, considered to still be in useful condition, were sent to [Chicago Mattress Co.](#) last year, where materials are re-used to create mattress sets or baled and sold into resale markets.

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iMS Mattress Recycling  
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However, none of the CMC mattresses make it back to iMS showroom floors. The company sells only newly manufactured bedding from Tempur-Pedic, Sealy, Stearns & Foster and Dormeo Octaspring.

The [International Sleep Products Assn.](#) (ISPA) estimates 20 million mattresses are discarded in the U.S. each year, and many end up in landfills where they take up lots of space. A single mattress occupies 27 to 60 cubic feet of landfill space and weighs, on average, 60 pounds. Mattresses are built to resist compression, so they are difficult to compact and can take years to decompose. Their steel innersprings tear up landfill equipment, and they can absorb hazardous materials into flammable air pockets, causing landfill fires.

In 2013, Connecticut, Rhode Island and California became the first and only states to pass legislation mandating that discarded mattresses be recycled. California and Rhode Island's recycling efforts are expected to launch in 2016.

Connecticut's program, which is due to begin May 1, will collect a \$9 recycling fee for each mattress and box spring, a total of \$18, at the point-of-sale. iMS stores charge a \$19.99 recycling fee for any mattress set hauled away from the customer's house.

"We at iMS are members of our communities," says Knopf. "Keeping these old mattresses out of our landfills is a way we can give back, a way we can help keep our communities clean and green."

### About Innovative Mattress Solutions

Innovative Mattress Solutions is headquartered in Winfield, W.Va. Owner Kim Knopf founded the company in 1983 with a single Mattress Warehouse brand store in South Charleston, W.Va. Today, iMS operates 155 Mattress Warehouse, Mattress King and Sleep Outfitters stores in six states: West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama. Products include Tempur-Pedic, Sealy, Stearns & Foster and Dormeo/Octaspring mattress sets, as well as adjustable foundations, pillows, mattress protectors, frames and headboards. In 2014, Furniture Today magazine ranked iMS as the country's 21<sup>st</sup> largest bedding retailer.