

## Wanted: Ugly, old couches

Stuart Hunter, The Province  
Published: Sunday, April 08, 2007

So you think you've got an ugly couch?

A Vancouver trash-removal company wants to cushion the blow of losing that ugly upholstered monstrosity lurking in your basement or garage by offering \$1,000 toward a new couch.

All you have to do is win the Vancouver's Ugliest Couch contest.

"Basically, we collect thousands of couches every year at the end of the month and in the springtime," Mike McKee, CEO of 1-800 RID-OF-IT, said yesterday. "We always end up with this huge collection of really ugly couches -- and we thought it would be a fun contest." To enter, send a photo of your couch to [www.1800ridofit.com](http://www.1800ridofit.com) by the May 15 deadline.

"We've seen some pretty ugly ones -- green, yellow, beige, brown, polka dots, cow motifs -- everything and anything from beanbag couches to bizarre-looking '70s sectionals," McKee said.

"We even had a sectional one that looked like it was from Austin Powers and rotated around."



David Loewen (left) and Mat Desjardins of 1-800 RID-OF-IT give RID-OF-IT's Mike McKee a ride on on an old couch, which is ugly enough to be an entry in the ugly couch contest.  
Arlen Redekop, The Province

Not sure if your ugly couch qualifies? Try the cat or mother/partner test.

"If you are not prepared to have your mom or girlfriend sit on it, that's an indication it is pretty ugly," McKee said. "Or if your cat spends more time on it than you, and it smells like the cat's litter box, that's a pretty good sign."

In addition to the \$1,000 credit from Sofa So Good, the winner will also have his or her old couch taken away free of charge.

All entrants will receive a coupon toward their next trash pickup and have a small donation made to Habitat For Humanity in their name.

"And you can check out our photo gallery," McKee said. "That way you can check out whether their ugly sofa measures up against those on the site."

Opened in 1995, 1-800 RID-OF-IT provides trash-removal services in Vancouver, Seattle and Toronto.

[shunter@png.canwest.com](mailto:shunter@png.canwest.com)