

Reducing Construction Waste

Building, renovating, and remodeling all produce a large amount of construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

For more information on reducing construction waste, visit:
<http://constructionwaste.sustainablebusiness.com/>

C&D includes:

- Bricks
- Concrete
- Masonry
- Soil
- Rocks
- Lumber
- Paving materials
- Shingles
- Glass
- Plastics
- Aluminum
- Steel
- Drywall
- Insulation
- Asphalt roofing materials
- Electrical materials
- Plumbing fixtures
- Vinyl siding
- Corrugated cardboard
- Tree stumps

***Reminder: The 4 R's are REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, and REBUY**

Benefits of the 4 R's:

- Less waste leads to fewer disposal facilities, which leads to less environmental issues
- Reducing, reusing, and recycling C&D reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Deconstruction and selective demolition methods divert large amounts of materials from disposal and provide business opportunities within the local community
- Recovered materials can be donated to qualified 501(c)(3) charities; results in tax benefit
 - *For a list of 501(c)(3) charities, visit: http://charity.lovetoknow.com/List_of_Nonprofit_Organizations*
- Allows you to avoid disposal and purchasing costs
- Generates revenue from the sale of materials
- Creates opportunities for tax breaks through material donations

Reducing, Reusing, Recycling, and Rebuying C&D:

The EPA lists several means of implementing the 4 R's during the building process. Incorporate these environmental specifications into your building contracts/guidelines:

- Develop operating procedures for C&D reuse and recycling at your construction site
- Rehabilitate an existing structure in place of planned demolition
- Use deconstruction techniques rather than demolition if a building must be torn down
- Employ efficient framing to reduce the amount of lumber used without sacrificing the structural integrity of the building
- Invest in durable products to ensure that materials last as long as possible
- Return unused construction material to vendors
- Consider the recyclability of building products at the start of the project
- Purchase recycled-content building materials (composite wood, biobased products)
- Salvage C&D waste for sale and reuse

Visit Shop Me Depot to find out how they sell C&D material at <http://www.shopdemodepot.com/>