



Recycle Construction Waste

City of Huntington Beach Green Building Tips

According to the 2004 Statewide Waste Characterization Study, construction and demolition (C&D) materials account for almost 22 percent of the waste stream and in newer communities this percentage can be over 50 percent! Many of these materials can be reused or recycled, thus prolonging our supply of natural resources and potentially saving money in the process. Common C&D materials include lumber, drywall, metals, masonry (brick, concrete, etc.), carpet, plastic, pipe, rocks, dirt, paper, cardboard, or green waste related to land development. Of these, metals are the most commonly recycled material while lumber makes up the majority of debris that still goes to a landfill.



At the end of a building's life, demolition generates large amounts of materials that can be reused or recycled, principally wood, concrete and other types of masonry, and drywall. Rather than demolish an entire building, "deconstruct" the structure. Deconstruction is the orderly dismantling building components for reuse or recycling. In contrast to demolition, where buildings are knocked down and materials are either landfilled or recycled, deconstruction involves carefully taking apart portions of buildings or removing their contents with the primary goal being reuse. It can be as simple as stripping out cabinetry, fixtures, and windows, or as involved as manually taking apart the building frame. Reuse and recycling of C&D materials is an important component of the larger holistic practice of green building construction. The efficient use of resources is a fundamental aspect of green building construction. This means reducing, reusing, and recycling most if not all materials that remain after a construction or renovation project. Green building construction practices can include salvaging dimensional lumber from the project, using aggregates reclaimed from crushed concrete, or grinding drywall scraps for use on site as a soil amendment.

Information derived from CA Integrated Waste Management Board
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/>



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