

Salvaging, reusing, and recycling building materials

A guide for homeowners



Many building materials have the potential to be salvaged and reused or recycled. In fact, about 85 percent of the materials in a typical demolition project could be salvaged and kept out of landfills. But currently, only about 30 percent of building materials are reused or recycled.

Construction and demolition (C&D) projects can also reveal hazardous materials, such as items that contain mercury or lead like fluorescent light bulbs or batteries.

This guide provides information to help homeowners consider options to reduce waste and properly manage hazardous waste during remodeling, construction, and demolition projects.



Consider deconstruction

Deconstruction can divert up to 90 percent of building materials for reuse and recycling. Deconstruction is the process of carefully dismantling building structures to salvage building materials for reuse. This approach has several environmental and social benefits compared to demolition.

In a deconstruction project, a building is taken apart, mostly by hand, and materials are sorted into categories for efficient recycling and reuse. Deconstruction prevents usable materials from going to the landfill, makes used building materials available to the community, provides additional jobs, and supports local reuse retailers.

It is important to plan ahead when considering deconstruction because the project will likely take longer to complete and could have increased labor costs. Homeowners and developers in Hennepin County may be eligible for funding for their deconstruction project. Visit hennepin.us/deconstruction or contact demo@hennepin.us to find out more about deconstruction.

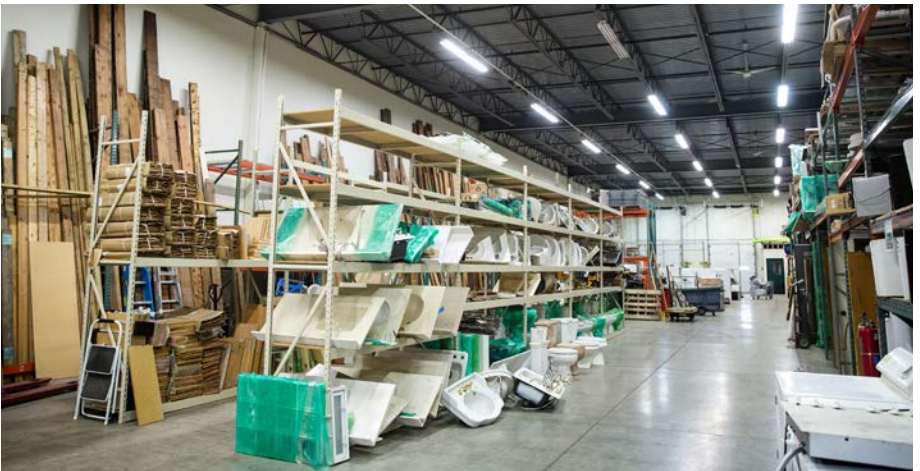




Salvage reusable materials

Many building materials can be salvaged for reuse. Reuse is environmentally preferred over recycling or trash disposal because it avoids energy use and costs associated with manufacturing new products and diverts materials from landfills.

There are several for-profit and nonprofit companies that accept usable household materials including appliances, cabinets, doors, hot water radiators, light fixtures, windows, and wood flooring and trim. There are also companies that will come to your project location to remove building materials and pay for them.



Salvage businesses

The following organizations and businesses offer salvage opportunities for building materials. This list does not constitute approval of any of the firms identified nor do we claim the list is complete. This list was last reviewed August 2020. Call first to verify hours, materials accepted, and guidelines.

Name and contact	Items accepted
A Plus Appliances , St. Paul 651-298-1929, aplusappliance.org	Appliances
Accent Store Fixtures , Minneapolis 612-379-2788, asfmn.com	Shelving and storage units, gridwall, slatwall
Architectural Antiques , Minneapolis 612-332-8344, archantiques.com	Building materials, unique/ historical artifacts
Art & Architecture , Minneapolis 612-904-1776, artandarc.com	Building materials, unique/ historical artifacts
Bauer Brothers Salvage, Inc. , Minneapolis 612-521-9492, bauerbrotherssalvage.com	Building materials including: cabinets, commercial items, doors, lighting, plumbing, windows
Better Futures Minnesota , Minneapolis, 612-351-8657, betterfuturesminnesota.com	Appliances, cabinets, doors, lighting, lumber, plumbing, tile
Bridging , Bloomington 952-888-1105, bridging.org	Furniture and household items
City Salvage , Minneapolis 612-627-9107, citysalvage.com	Building materials including: cabinets, commercial items, doors, lighting, plumbing, windows
Furnish Office & Home , Minneapolis, 612-789-3322, furnishofficeandhome.org	Office furniture and equipment
Guided Salvage , Minneapolis 612-789-1680 guidedsalvage.com	Building materials, unique/ historical artifacts, hardware, lighting
Habitat for Humanity ReStore , Minneapolis and New Brighton 612-588-3820, restore.tchabitat.org	Building materials including: cabinets, commercial items, doors, lighting, plumbing, windows
Historic Stone Company , Minneapolis 651-641-1234, historicstone.com	Various stones
Second Chance Recycling , Minneapolis, 612-332-0664 ext.14 secondchancerecyclingmn.com	Mattresses and box springs

Recycle construction and demolition materials



Plan ahead to coordinate recycling for building materials that can't be salvaged for reuse. There are several C&D processing facilities in the Twin Cities that accept C&D materials such as asphalt, metals and wood for recycling. C&D processing facilities can recover about half of materials for recycling, putting C&D materials to better use than if they were all sent to landfills.

The companies listed below accept loads of C&D materials and can also provide roll-off boxes to keep at site to collect materials throughout the project at a comparable price of sending these materials to a landfill. This list does not constitute approval of any of the firms identified nor do we claim the list is complete.

- Atomic Recycling, Minneapolis
612-623-8888, atomicrecycling.com
- Dem-Con, Shakopee
952-445-5755, dem-con.com

Bring household hazardous waste to a drop-off facility



Oftentimes, unintended household hazardous waste is discovered during home construction projects. Household hazardous waste such as paint, fluorescent bulbs, mercury thermostats, and lawn, garden and automotive materials should be taken to a Hennepin County drop-off facility for proper disposal. Before you visit, verify that your item is accepted for disposal and check if there is a limit or fee at hennepin.us/greendisposalguide.

Hennepin County drop-off facility locations:

- Bloomington: 1400 West 96th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431
- Brooklyn Park: 8100 Jefferson Highway,
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

Visit hennepin.us/dropoffs for hours and additional information.

Close the loop: Buy salvaged building materials for your next project

Consumers are an important part in making recycling work because purchases send a message that salvaged products are valued.

When you're out shopping for building supplies, help close the recycling loop by purchasing items made from reused or salvaged materials. See the salvage businesses list included in this guide for reuse retailers that offer a variety of home building materials.



Hennepin County
Environment and Energy
612-348-3777
hennepin.us/salvage

