

Construction & Demolition

The construction and demolition industries generate over one third of all waste going to landfill. Over 75% of this waste is clean excavated material, concrete, bricks and timber. This waste is not an inevitable part of a project but a significant opportunity to increase a project's efficiency and profitability.

These waste materials, regardless of whether they are recycled or sent to landfill, represent a cost to your business. In addition to the obvious waste disposal and transport costs, there are further hidden costs such as the value of lost raw materials and the value-added cost from labour and energy. Minimising this waste is an opportunity to increase profit. There are waste minimisation opportunities in residential, civil and commercial projects.



How can I help?

> By buying Australian where possible, less energy is needed to transport materials and therefore also helps to reduce waste through minimal greenhouse gas emissions.

> Demand that the right thing is done with your building waste! Ensure the contractor seeks recycling/reuse options or hire a contractor that does. Ask whether demolition in the future will contribute to toxic waste.

> Separate the different types of building wastes. This will make it easier for waste transfer and minimise the quantity of waste that you produce, and saves money on raw materials and disposal costs.

> Think about what materials can be reused or recycled. For example, trees and paper can be mulched, while items like fittings and bricks can be salvaged and resold. Are there any second hand building material businesses in your area?