

Construction & Demolition Debris Recycling

Waste is generated every time a building is constructed, remodeled, or demolished. This waste is known as construction and demolition (C&D) debris. C&D debris often contains bulky, heavy materials, including concrete, wood, asphalt (from driveways and roofing shingles), gypsum (the main component of drywall), metals, bricks, and plastics. C&D debris also includes salvaged building components such as doors, windows, and plumbing fixtures. Much of this C&D debris can easily be recycled or reused rather than disposed.

C&D recycling is a critical part of the City's continuing effort to comply with the State's mandate requiring all cities to recycle 50% of all their waste. C&D debris constitutes well over 30% of the total waste generated in the City. Approximately 85% of C&D debris is currently recyclable making it the most easily recycled type of waste in the waste stream.

Many cities including La Cañada Flintridge developed C&D debris recycling programs to help prevent recyclable debris from ending up in our limited local landfills. [Chapter 9.14](#) of the Municipal Code requires demolition and building permit applicants with projects of 1,000 square feet or more to submit a Building Debris Management Report and a performance security. The performance security amount is calculated at the lesser of 3% of the project cost or \$10,000. The performance security is refunded if the applicant documents that at least 50% of project debris is reused or recycled. The City prohibits contracting with unauthorized waste haulers. Click [here](#) for a list of authorized waste haulers.

Finally, while C&D recycling has numerous benefits for our community and the environment, it also has great potential for lowering job costs. Many recyclers accept C&D materials at much lower prices than landfills. For example, road base facilities accept concrete and asphalt for about \$5.00 per ton, compared to about \$35.00 per ton at landfills. Miscellaneous C&D debris that can't be easily separated on-site can be taken to a mixed debris recycling facility. Recycling can be easy and cost you less money!

Links to C&D Recycling Resources

California Integrated Waste Management Board C&D:

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ConDemo/>

US EPA C&D:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/debris/>

Construction Materials Recycling Association:

<http://www.cdrecycling.org/wholeframe.htm>