Construction and Demolition Recycling

*The Final Product:*

So the items have been separated out and sent off to a recycler. Now what happens?

**Asphalt:** Is heated and/or ground up for re-use in paving applications. Milled asphalt and other small chunks may be used as roadbed aggregate.

**Brick:** Is crushed and used for roadbed aggregate, soil stabilizations, pipe bedding, or landscaping. Some manufacturers are working on ways to recycle brick back into brick.

**Cardboard:** Is recycled back into cardboard, boxboard, paper bags or brown kraft paper.

**Carpet:** Is recycled into more carpet or turned into carpet padding.

**Ceiling Tile:** Is recycled back into new ceiling materials.

**Concrete:** Is crushed and used for roadbed aggregate, soil stabilizations, pipe bedding, or landscaping. Researchers are working on quality standards to turn recycled concrete into “Ready-Mix” concrete.

**Dirt:** May be used as fill dirt for other projects. In some cases, it may be used as daily cover for landfill operations.

**Drywall/Sheetrock:** Is ground up and used as soil amendment for farmers. Some poultry producers also use it for bedding material.

**Land Clearing Debris (trees and brush):** Is ground up into varying grades of mulch or soil amendment.

**Metal:** Is sorted by type, and recycled into various metal products, including food/drink containers, wiring, cookware, shelving, and automobiles.

**PVC Pipe:** Is ground up and recycled into decking material, mud flaps, roadway gutters, flooring, cables, speed bumps, and mats.

**Rock and Stone:** Is crushed and reused as aggregate or filler. Depending on the stone, it may also be used for landscaping.
**Shingles:** May be ground up and used for roadbed aggregate or patching during repaving operations. They may also be recycled into new roofing material or burned as fuel oil.

**Wood:** Untreated lumber from framing and interior work is ground up and turned into mulch. Pallets can often be repaired and reused; if repair is not feasible, they can also be ground into mulch. Painted and treated lumber is more difficult to recycle, but there are a few places that can use treated lumber as boiler fuel.