

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.

