



Construction Waste Reduction Case Study

Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management Division

Program Highlights

Benefits:

- Tons diverted: 40 tons*
- \$3,400 saved in tipping fees

Materials Recycled:

- **Clean Wood:** 7.05 tons
- **Brick:** 0.5 tons
- **Concrete:** 2 tons
- **Scrap Metal:** 0.7 tons

Sample Materials Salvaged:

- 21 cy Fiberglass Insulation
- 10 Sheets of Rigid Foam Insulation
- 58 Windows
- 500 sf Rubber Roofing
- 299 Sections Lumber
- 7 Bathroom Sinks
- 2 Formica Counter Tops
- 8 Cedar Posts and Mantel
- 98 Assorted Lighting Fixtures

Project Statistics:

- **Expected Completion date:** May 2003
- **Size:** 7,000 square feet
- **Location:** Charlotte, VT

General Contractor:

Birdseye Building Company
3104 Huntington Road
Richmond, VT 05477
(802) 434-2112

Project Contact:

Mark Moskowitz

* estimated



A "deconstructed" home in Charlotte. Deconstruction saved \$3,400.

Deconstruction Saves \$3,400

When Birdseye Building Company began work on a lakeside home in Charlotte, they deconstructed the pre-existing structure and reused the old footprint instead of demolishing it. Deconstructing the building took about three weeks longer than straight demolition. Most of the salvageable materials were donated to ReCycle North, a used building materials store, for resale. The homeowner received a tax deduction for the materials donated and avoided the disposal costs for all 40 tons reused.

Birdseye employees were already familiar with on-site reuse and recycling practices, giving the company a leg up in the education portion of the project. Clear signs marked each recycling bin, and two closed storage bins were used to protect reusable materials during deconstruction.

Employees gained valuable experience and will likely save even more money in their next project.

"Thus far, the project has been a great success. Support among Birdseye employees was strong before official grant work had even begun."

– Mark Moskowitz

TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE IN DECONSTRUCTION

Allow for the extra time needed to dismantle a structure. While deconstruction takes longer than simply demolishing a structure, contractors can save on disposal fees and can often sell materials or get a tax deduction for any donated materials.

1. **Contact Vermont salvage companies and used building materials stores.** (see RESOURCES below).
2. **Walk through the building** with experienced salvagers to determine what has value for resale or reuse.
3. **Remove salvageable items as early in the process as possible.** Allow time for this on the front end of the schedule.
4. **Look for salvage opportunities as the project progresses.** For example, carpet removal may reveal hardwood flooring that is salvageable.
5. **Allow workers to reuse scraps** or list your available surplus scrap *for free* on the Vermont Business Materials Exchange (see RESOURCES below).
6. **Require specifications** for reuse in the bid documents. Specifications could include a requirement to "Salvage reusable materials for resale, for storage for use on future projects or to return reusable items (e.g., pallets or unused products) to the material suppliers."
7. **Compare estimates** for your demolition bids to your deconstruction bids. You may also want to consider partial salvage, such as salvaging the more valuable fixtures and materials and demolishing the remainder.

RESOURCES

Vermont Business Materials Exchange:

A free service that matches companies with excess goods with companies that can use the materials.

<http://www.vbmex.net>

Vermont Construction Site Reuse and Recycling Directory:

Lists markets for reusable or recyclable C&D materials.

Available online or in booklet form (802-241-3477).

http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/cf/wm/CandD_SearchList.cfm

Visit Vermont's Construction Waste Reduction Page Online

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/recycling/c&d.htm>

For more information:

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Good Business**

