



Construction Waste Reduction Case Study

Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management Division

Program Highlights

Benefits/Cost Savings

- \$2,185 earned from salvage
- \$3,068 earned from copper & brass
- \$1,310 saved in disposal fees

Sample Materials Salvaged

- 21 Metal Lockers
- 12 Heart Shaped Sinks
- 47 Stainless Steel Mirrors
- 19 Wall & Free Standing Radiators
- 6 Wooden Corner Shelves
- 8 Fire Hose Extinguisher Cabinets

Project Statistics

- **Size:** 58,560 square feet
- **Location:** Barre, VT

General Contractor

Engelberth Construction, Inc.
463 Mountain View Drive
Colchester, VT 05446
Project Contact:
Todd Ronson, Project
Engineer (802) 846-2348



3 wooden cooler doors were sold to the Vermont Salvage Exchange

Contractors Learn to Salvage

When the State of Vermont awarded a contract to Engelberth Construction Inc. to renovate the old Barre City hospital, it required them to fill out a *Waste Reduction Plan*. Engelberth developed an extensive Plan that included a two-day silent auction to sell valuable items and give away the remaining items. Todd Ronson, Recycling Project Manager, estimates that two-thirds of the items salvaged were sold or given away for free, the remainder was recycled or disposed of.

The Company earned money from the salvage but spent about 465 hours to remove pieces. Ronson noted that items were moved up to five times during the salvage phase. In the future, the Company would consider hosting a bidding process for the more valuable architectural items and a one-day “lawn sale,” advertised in the local paper, where everything would be marked as free.

“Of those approximately 200 items, 127 of them were put back into reuse and did not end up in the landfills or for scrap metal.”

- Todd Ronson
Project Engineer, ECI

TIPS FOR SALVAGING

1. **First consider reusing a building** rather than tearing it down and building a new one.
2. **Contact Vermont salvage companies** and used building materials stores and walk through the building with experienced salvagers to determine what has value for sale or reuse. (see Resources below).
3. **List available materials on the Vermont Business Materials Exchange.** Some Vermont schools took sinks and shelving they had seen posted on the Exchange. (see Resources below)
4. **Inform your demolition crew** of salvage procedures and expectations.
5. **Minimize the number of times you move things.** Excessive moving leads to higher labor costs and increases the risk of damage.
6. **Go for the easy things** – don't try to salvage everything. Items that are easily damaged are often not cost effective to salvage without proper on-site storage.
7. **Be flexible in the design** – use what you have on hand. Items that can be reused on-site cut down on labor costs associated with salvaging and help prevent waste.

RESOURCES

Vermont Business Materials Exchange:

A free service that matches companies with excess goods with companies in need of those goods.

<http://www.vbmex.net>

Visit Vermont's Construction Waste Reduction Page Online

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

For more information:

Department of Environmental Conservation

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**Green is
Good Business**

