

Where can I get help?

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

12 Great George Street
Parliament Square
London SW1P 3AD

Construction Industry Council

26 Store Street
London WC1E 7BT

The National Federation of Demolition Contractors Limited

Resurgam House
1A New Road
The Causeway
Staines TW18 3DH

CIRIA

6 Storeys Gate
Westminster
London SW1P 3AU

www.rics.org

RICS is the mark of property professionalism worldwide, promoting **best practice** regulation and **consumer protection** for business and the community. It is the home of property related knowledge and is an **impartial advisor** to governments across the globe.

Other guides to recycling in the series include:

- Demolition waste
- Housing waste.

You can get free copies from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.



RICS Faculties and Forums

A guide to recycling commercial construction waste

Did you know?

30% of materials you purchase can go to waste but you can save much of this by **reducing, reclaiming, reusing** and **recycling**.

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Why recycle?

Over 70 million tonnes of construction waste are generated each year.

But 60-80% of builders' on site materials are reusable, including:

- Wood, metals, aggregates, glass, plastics, slate, tiles, cardboard
- Fixtures and fittings
- Windows, doors, fixed furniture items
- Other common reusable items, such as site hoarding materials.

Over 80% of construction materials use natural resources.

Landfill tax is currently £14/t in 2003-04, rising to £15/t in 2004-05.



What can I do?

You can **reduce, reuse, recycle** and **reclaim** by:

- Minimising waste generated
- Establishing and creating contacts and networks within industry and local communities
- Setting up networks for exchanging materials with other contractors
- Substituting new and primary materials with appropriate recycled/reusable materials
- Carrying materials over or onto the next project
- Encouraging 'conserve' attitudes and discouraging 'throw away' culture
- Minimising waste going to landfill sites:
 - Saving money on landfill deposit costs
 - Saving money on transport costs to landfill
 - Reducing pollution impacts of travelling
- Promoting sustainable jobs by encouraging a construction salvage industry
- Reducing the use of primary resources from your waste management contractor or local authority.

Who is responsible?

- Everyone as individuals has a role to play
- Everyone acting in groups can contribute to make an impact.

What if I transport waste?

You need to be registered as a carrier of controlled waste – otherwise you may commit an offence.

You must register if:

- You transport construction or demolition waste including waste from preparatory work (construction waste includes waste from improvement, repair or alteration)
- You transport waste in the course of your business, or for profit.

Segregate and recycle waste:

- Eliminate or reduce waste occurring at source
- Segregate physical waste then recycle on site, sell it, donate it to a charity – only as a last resort dispose to landfill
- Collaborate with waste companies and salvage firms to develop disposal and collection services
- Put a value on waste items and educate people to understand and contribute to the process.