

Waste Reduction – HOME RENOVATION

This guide provides good-practice guidance to reduce construction and demolition (C&D) waste during home renovation. The guide is part of the REBRI series aimed at reducing the amount of C&D waste that ends up in landfills and clean fills around New Zealand.

The aims of the guidelines for home renovation are to:

- assist homeowners to consider how and why waste is created as a result of their renovation project
- promote good planning and project design that focus on reducing materials use and materials wastage
- promote the reuse of building materials and the recycling of building waste
- foster environmental awareness.

The guidelines cover:

- planning your renovation – the big picture
- detailed design and planning
- building material and product selection
- demolition
- recycling and reusing building waste
- sorting waste for recycling and reuse
- reducing waste during construction
- links, resources and information.

The waste issue

Waste is generated on building sites during each phase of the building life cycle. Evidence suggests that C&D waste may represent up to 50% of all waste to landfills in New Zealand and the majority of waste to cleanfills or C&D dumps. That means that up to 1.7 million tonnes of C&D waste is sent to landfills every year and similar amounts to cleanfills.

That's a lot of waste to bury in the ground. Not only is this a waste of good resources, it is also filling up valuable landfill and cleanfill space and contributing to serious environmental problems such as air and water pollution. Increased consumer spending and the relatively low cost of waste disposal means that, unless we take action now, it is a problem that is likely to get bigger.

Waste minimisation is a principle of the Building Act 2004 and must be taken into account by local authorities when undertaking their duties under the Act.

If you added up all the waste from home renovations, they are a large source of C&D waste. The decisions made by home renovators have a major influence on the type and amount of waste from each project. Renovating a structurally sound house is usually more material efficient than starting from scratch so deciding to renovate is a positive decision. Other decisions such as what type of fittings and materials will be used, how much salvage is done and what methods of construction are used will all contribute to waste reduction.



At least 50% of a building waste skip can easily be recycled.

