

Using Less Building Materials



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Australians generate approximately one tonne of waste per person per year, which goes to landfill. Up to 40% of this is building material. Reducing and recycling this material can have significant social, economic and environmental benefits.

The Three R's Of Reducing Materials: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

REDUCE consumption of materials by estimating efficiently and using prefabricated materials where possible. This is the most effective way to conserve precious resources for use by future generations as well as reducing waste. It also lowers costs.

REUSE existing building materials and reduce demand for resources, lower waste volumes and save money.

RECYCLE resources that are left over or have reached the end of their useful life. This will reduce demand for new materials and lower the volume of waste going to landfill.

Sending Building Materials To Landfill Is Like Throwing Money In The Bin.

Use **RENEWABLE RESOURCES** like plantation grown timber to preserve old growth forests. This creates a sustainable economy and helps conserve non-renewable resources.

Use materials with **HIGH RECYCLED CONTENT** to assist with creating a market for recycled resources. It will raise the price paid by waste recycling companies for recovered resources and increase the viability of recycling.

Reduce Materials Sent To Landfill

Our normal means of waste disposal to landfill is uneconomic. Costs to communities to operate and maintain landfill sites are high and availability of suitable land is becoming limited.

"The largest single source of landfilled waste in WA is materials and soils from construction and demolition activities" (Waste 2020, 2001).

"With expected population growth and current disposal practices it is estimated that the overall life expectancy of the remaining putrescible landfills is less than ten years." The Department of Environment and Waste Management Board's 'Strategic Direction for Waste Management' 2003.

We must reduce waste volumes going to landfill and remove toxic content from materials before disposal.

'User pays' landfill fees make recycling more profitable and can help you save money as landfill gate fees continue to rise.

WARNING: On the spot FINES apply

For Further Information...

Printed February 2005

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Your Industry Association
Your Local Council

The Clean Site program is coordinated by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA) and the Department of Environment in partnership with the Housing Industry Association and Master Builders Association.

The Clean Site program is a KESAB industry education initiative



Department of Environment

Keep Australia Beautiful
WESTERN AUSTRALIA