



# A Contractor's Guide to the Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance

Construction and demolition (C&D) materials make up 17% of Cook County's solid waste stream. C&D waste comes from demolitions, renovations, and new construction projects. In November 2012, Cook County passed the Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance, which requires the diversion of demolition and deconstruction debris for all projects issued demolition permits by Cook County, except garages, sheds, and projects that are not demolishing any load bearing wall. Complying with the ordinance also supports Evanston's goal of becoming a zero waste community by 2050.

## Requirements

### Residential Structures

(Single-family homes from one to four units):

**70% of debris by weight must be recycled and 5% of debris by weight must be reused.**

### Commercial/Industrial/Residential

(Four units or more):

**70% of debris by weight must be recycled.**

### Meet the 70% Recycling Requirement

- Consider maintaining separate waste streams for your top three to five materials to achieve higher levels of recycling. Concrete, brick and structural steel are good places to start.
- Find a construction recycler by visiting [www.swancc.org/construction-recycling](http://www.swancc.org/construction-recycling).

### Meet the 5% Reuse Requirement

- To maximize reuse, focus on materials that have a market and can be reused on site or will be accepted by a reuse warehouse, such as the Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse.
- Landscaping pavers, bricks, crushed concrete can be reused on site.
  - Doors, vintage lighting, cabinets, appliances, and flooring are often eligible for donation to a reuse warehouse.
  - Dimensional lumber and plywood is often eligible for donation to a reuse warehouse or sale to a salvaged lumber broker.

### Contractor Benefits

- Avoid fines by complying with the Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion ordinance.
- Reduce project expenses through avoided purchase/disposal/trucking costs.
- Reduce the overall amount of C&D material generated and prevent improper disposal of materials.
- Recover material value through reuse and recycling from materials that would have otherwise been discarded.
- Receive tax benefits by donating recovered materials to qualified 501(c)(3) charities such as Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse or other reuse warehouses.
- Support Evanston climate and sustainability goals and potentially receive recognition for creative effective approaches to reuse.



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