



A Homeowner's Guide to Reuse and Recycling

Renovating your home and taking down buildings is sometimes necessary, but that doesn't mean all those materials need to go to waste. In Cook County, construction and demolition materials make up 17% of what goes into landfills. Incorporating reuse and deconstruction into your next project can help fight climate change, support the local economy, and give new life to usable materials.

Are you renovating your home?

- Direct your designer, architect, and contractor to identify reuse opportunities in your project and ensure that as much is recycled or reused as possible.
- Donate your reusable and reclaimed building materials to a local reuse center, such as the Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse (ERW). The ERW accepts most doors, vintage lighting, newer kitchen cabinet sets, appliances, and dimensional lumber.
- Incorporate reclaimed building materials into your project and give them a second life. Vintage and unique pieces can be found in reuse centers, vintage boutiques, and consignment stores.

Thinking about Demolition? Consider Deconstruction!

Deconstruction is the careful dismantling of building components for reuse, repurposing, recycling, and waste reduction. Up to 95% of a home can be recycled or reused.

Deconstruction Benefits

- **Reduced Environmental Impact**—keep building materials out of landfills and reduce the need for new raw materials. When all valuable material is salvaged, it can be reused by others in the community.
- **Increased Economic Impact**—for every one demolition job, there are six jobs created in deconstruction.
- **Improved Public Health**—when building materials are crushed, harmful dust containing lead or carbon monoxide can be released into the air.

Homeowner Benefits

- **Save Money**—spend less money on trash disposal fees for building materials that will be sent to a landfill and receive a tax benefit for materials donated to a nonprofit organization.
- **Preserve History**—reuse material that no longer exists and preserve Evanston's architectural history—such as old growth lumber, pocket doors, or heirloom mantle pieces.
- **Support the Community**—your donation or purchase gives building materials an extended life and supports the City of Evanston's goal to be a zero waste community by 2050.

Doing a project that requires a Cook County demolition permit?

The Cook County Demolition Debris Ordinance requires that all projects with a permit must divert 70% of debris on site. Residential projects must also show an additional 5% of weight is reused. The purpose of the ordinance is to reduce the overall amount of waste generated that is sent to landfills and to recover material value through reuse and recycling. Find out more about the ordinance and process to get a permit by visiting www.cookcountyil.gov/service/demolition-permitting.

Reuse Centers

Call or visit each center's website for a full list of donations accepted, hours of operations, and criteria for donations.

Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse

2101 Dempster, Evanston
847-864-9246
evanstonrebuildingwarehouse.org

Chicagoland Habitat for Humanity ReStore

6040 N Pulaski, Chicago
312-265-6625
chicagolandhabitat.org

The ReBuilding Exchange

1740 W Webster, Chicago
773-252-2234
rebuildingexchange.org

Salvation Army

6715 W Dempster, Morton Grove
4335 Oakton, Skokie
773-477-1300
usc.salvationarmy.org