

First Finish Goes Green



It's a well-known fact that recycling such items as used plastic containers and old newspapers has a positive impact on the environment and the economy. But, did you know that construction demolition debris can be recycled too? Everything from what you might imagine like cardboard and plastic to items like carpet, acoustical ceiling tiles and wall vinyl.

Each year, 325 million tons of recoverable construction and demolition materials are generated in the United States. By partnering with local and regional recyclers of construction waste products, First Finish is doing its part in improving that statistic by pioneering eco-friendly recycling practices within its industry. Together with these professionals, First Finish has created job specific solutions to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Check out these First Finish renovation projects

to get an idea of the environmental impact of recycling construction demolition debris.

Marriott Dulles Airport

- Approximately 75-80% of the demolition construction materials were recycled.
- 65 tons (130,384 pounds) of carpet, padding and acoustical ceiling tile was diverted from local landfills. That's approximately 352 pounds of debris per room.
- Financial impact per renovation, depending upon logistics, can be assumed as less than a 1% swing on average in relation to overall construction costs.

Marriott Westfield's Conference Center

- Approximately 95% of demolition construction materials are being recycled.
- 100% of guestroom and public space carpet and pad, FF&E cardboard, guestroom and corridor wall vinyl is being recycled.
- Approximately 48 tons (96,000 pounds) of carpet will be recycled by the project's end.

Marriott Inner Harbor

- 100% of corridor and guestroom carpet and pad and FF&E cardboard and packaging materials will be recycled.
- Approximately 80 tons (160,000 pounds) of carpet will be recycled by the project's end.



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Construction Debris Recycling Facts:

Recycling has cost benefits.

Recycling containers can either be a pass-through cost or cost less than conventional waste receptacles for the following reasons:

- Recycling containers typically hold 40% more than conventional debris receptacles.
- As landfills fill up and close down, new landfills are moved further away, which increases traditional landfill disposal and transportation costs.
- When demand for recycled raw materials increases, the supply must increase to keep the same pace. This causes a need for more facilities to be available that can provide these materials, and thus raw material prices decrease; translating into sustained recycling costs, as apposed to costs for dumping, which will progressively increase.

Recycling has a positive impact on the environment.

Landfills where construction debris is typically dumped are major sources of soil and water pollution, as well as major producers of significant quantities of greenhouse gasses such as methane. Recycling efforts minimize these impacts and reverse the negative process. For example, every 100 square yards of carpet recovered equals a savings of 44 gallons of oil.

Debris is diverted from landfills.

An average hotel renovation uses 20 to 30 dumpsters (3 to 4 tons per dumpster), which translates to approximately 120 tons or 240,000 pounds of potential landfill impact per renovation.

Recycling provides post-consumer materials that can be reused to create new products.

For example, carpet provides post-consumer raw materials used to create composite lumber, tile backer board, roofing shingles, railroad ties, automotive parts, carpet cushions, stepping stones, and new carpet tiles.

**Resources for statistics include CARE—Carpet and Recovery Effort (www.carpetrecovery.org), Environmental Protection Agency, Ken Mogal at RM Brokerage (www.rmbrokerage.com) and Paul Ashman at Environmental Recovery & Consolidation Services (www.carpetrecycling.com), Construction Materials Recycling Association*

Each year, 325 million tons of recoverable construction and demolition materials are generated in the United States.

For more information about how First Finish can recycle materials from your next renovation project, contact us today!
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