

# Constructive Recycling

In Australia, it is estimated that over 20 million tonnes of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste are produced each year<sup>50</sup>. This includes waste generated from the demolition, destruction and excavation of homes and buildings.

Some of the most common C&D waste can include pipes, electrical wires, concrete, sand and gravel, wood, windows and door frames<sup>51</sup>. The cost of disposing of the material taken from an average house is estimated to be between \$2000 to \$3000<sup>52</sup>.

Of the 20 million tonnes of C&D waste produced in Australia, just over half is either recycled or recovered<sup>53</sup>. Much of the C&D waste can be turned into useful products. Bricks and concrete for example can be recycled into road and paving materials, while steel can be turned into the production of reinforced concrete<sup>54</sup>. Plasterboards (gypsum) on the other hand can be ground and applied to soil to improve its structure<sup>55</sup>.

C&D waste has a significant advantage over the municipal and industrial waste streams in that it is generated from a relatively limited number of sites. It is also highly recyclable when sent to



In six months  
Bingo Bins  
recycled  
218,000 tonnes  
of bricks and  
concrete.

state of the art recovery centres like the new Bingo Bins facility at Minto which recycles up to 80% of C&D waste. Some materials are picked out of the process by hand while magnets pick up the ferrous metals, trommels (rotating or shaking screens with various size holes) separate rocks, stones and sand based on their size.

At the end of the process the newly separated materials are sold as mulch, garden beds, pipe bedding, road base and many other uses.



Find C&D recyclers near you 