

The next two phases of a building's life would be the remodel and the demolition phases. As with the construction phase, these two phases produce a lot of waste and can be costly. However, using a green approach known as deconstruction reduces the waste and costs associated with remodeling and demolition.

Current estimates show that "each year the U.S. generates 136 million tons of building construction and demolition waste, only 20 to 30% of which is recycled or reused (MSSFS pg. 2). Through deconstruction waste can be decreased. "Deconstruction is the orderly dismantling of building components for reuse or recycling. This process involves carefully taking apart portions of buildings or removing their contents with the primary goal being reuse." ([www.ciwmb.ca.gov/condemo](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/condemo).)

Some common items to reuse include: fixtures, windows, wood and frame Work, as well as, interior details such as trim work and stair railings. Other common items may be recycled in existing municipals recycling programs. These items include "corrugated cardboard, a variety of plastics (such as PVC pipe), glass and yard waste."

Some of the less common items that can be reused or recycled include: carpet, furniture, and aggregate. For example, "used carpet and rugs generated nationwide in 2001 amounted to around 2.6 million tons" (U.S. EPA's Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste: 2001 Update). Several states, the US EPA and the carpet industry joined together with a goal to divert 40% of waste carpet generated by 2012. Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) is leading the drive toward this goal.

There are facilities that accept used carpets and carpet pads. By reusing or recycling used carpets and pads you may receive cash for the carpet or pad. One

company offers carpet products that can be cleansed, rejuvenated and restyled and reinstalled as fresh carpet.

As with carpet, furniture may also be made so that it can be recycled easily. For example, building “green furniture” such as a chair may include using “woods from sustainable forests and foam that doesn’t emit toxic chemicals. Another feature would be that the chair is built to be disassembled quickly, so the components can be reused and the rest of it doesn’t end up as land fill” (Boston Globe 5/18/06).

Another less common item from demolition that can be reused is aggregate. “Recycled aggregate is produced by crushing concrete, and sometimes asphalt, to reclaim the aggregate. Recycled aggregate can be used for many purposes. The primary market is road base.” Recycled aggregate can also be used: as surfacing in gravel roads, as base for building foundations and as fill for utility trenches. The use of recycled aggregate can save money for local government and other purchasers, create additional business opportunities, save energy when recycling is done on site, conserve diminishing resources of urban aggregates and help local governments meet the goal of reducing disposal by 50%. ([www.ciwmb.ca.gov./condem/aggregate](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov./condem/aggregate)).

“ Through careful planning, reuse and recycling of construction and demolition materials can actually be more economical than disposal.”

([www.ciwmb.ca.gov./condem/aggregate](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov./condem/aggregate)).