



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

- **What is the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Recycling Ordinance?**

Recyclable debris from construction, demolition & grading projects must be diverted from landfill disposal in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County. The ordinance, which aligns with CalGreen Building Standards, requires that each building & demolition project divert 65% of C&D material generated which shall include a minimum of 90% diversion of inert material. Grading projects must divert 100% of land clearing materials including associated vegetation ([Sections 68.511 through 68.520 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances](#)).

** Please note* C&D condition of approvals shall be processed within one full business day of the Recycling Section receiving all required documentation.*

- **Do I need to comply with the C&D recycling requirements?**

The following projects must meet required recycling rates:

- All new construction projects
- Non-residential building additions & alteration projects
- Residential additions & alterations that increase a building's footprint, volume, or size
- Demolition projects associated with new construction, additions, & alterations
- Non-residential & residential excavation & grading projects (excluding agricultural grading)

- **How much do I need to recycle?**

The County C&D Ordinance and CalGreen require a 65% recycling rate for construction & demolition projects, including 90% diversion of inert materials (concrete, asphalt, etc.).

Grading projects must recycle or reuse 100% of excavated soils, trees, stumps, rocks & vegetation.

- **Recordkeeping – What do I need to do?**

All building, demolition and grading projects must maintain a [Daily Log](#), with accompanying receipts, of C&D materials that leave the site, or have been designated for salvage or reuse onsite. All projects are subject to County inspection at any time.

- **Determine the method of compliance to be used for a project:**

1. Approved Collector Compliance Method (**NO** performance guarantee required)
 - *Only projects 1,000 ≤ 5,000 ft² are eligible to use this method.*
2. Enhanced Compliance Method (performance guarantee **IS** required)
 - *This compliance method is required for projects greater than 5,000 ft².*

- **What is the Approved Collector Method?**

The Approved Collector compliance method allows permittees to demonstrate compliance by:

- Choosing an Approved Collector of C&D materials and submitting a signed Letter of Agreement.
- Submitting a DMP to the County for review and approval prior to the start of any excavation, grading, construction, or demolition activities.
- Permittee maintains records of C&D materials reused on-site or salvaged for off-site reuse and



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notifies Approved Collector of tonnages.

- Approved Collector delivers C&D material to an approved C&D processing facility and maintains records of diversion.
- Approved Collector or permittee submits a Debris Management Report (DMR) to the DMP compliance official no later than 180 days after the County issues a passed final inspection notice (certificate of occupancy).
- *Please note:* This compliance method is available only for projects $1,000 \leq 5,000 \text{ ft}^2$.

• What is the Enhanced Compliance Method?

The Enhanced Compliance Method allows permittees to demonstrate compliance by:

- Submitting a DMP to the County for review and approval prior to the start of any excavation, grading, construction, or demolition activities.
- Applicant submits a performance guarantee equal to \$0.40 per square foot not to exceed \$40,000.00.
- Permittee diverts C&D during excavation, grading, construction, or demolition activities using allowable methods.
- Permittee maintains all documentation showing the transportation, diversion and/or disposal of C&D material.
- Permittee submits a Debris Management Report (DMR) no later than 180 days after the County issues a passed final inspection notice (certificate of occupancy).
- *Please note:* This compliance method is required for projects greater than $1,000 \text{ ft}^2$ that do not use Approved Collector Method and all projects greater than $5,000 \text{ ft}^2$.

• What is a Performance Guarantee?

A Performance Guarantee is a refundable deposit to ensure compliance with the C&D recycling requirements. Full compliance with recycling requirements will result in a full refund. A pro-rated refund will be granted for partial compliance.

The C&D Performance Guarantee is calculated based on the square footage of the building or demolition project. The rate is \$0.40 per square foot, with a project cap of \$40,000. Deposits are cash only (check, money order, etc.).

Performance guarantees are required for all projects greater than $5,000 \text{ ft}^2$ and when the Enhanced Compliance Method is used for projects that are $1,000 \leq 5,000 \text{ ft}^2$.

• On phased projects, do I have to submit more than one DMP and additional Performance Guarantees?

A new DMP and Performance Guarantee should be submitted for each phase which requires its own permit for a residential tract or multi-building commercial projects.

• What is required under the C&D Permit?

Each covered permitted project is required to:

- Complete and submit a Debris Management Plan (DMP)
- Submit a Performance Guarantee*
- Submit a Signed Letter of Agreement if using the Approved Collector Compliance Method
- ***C&D condition of approvals shall be processed within one full business day of the Recycling Section receiving above documentation.*** Maintain a Daily Log of material taken off project site



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- Adequately document reuse/salvage on-site
- Calculate and submit the project's final recycling rate to request a refund, using a Debris Management Report (DMR), of the Performance Guarantee prior to 180 after project passes final County inspection.
- The DMR can be submitted by either the permittee or the permittees Approved Collector if the Approved Collector Compliance Method was chosen.

** Performance Guarantees are not required for projects using the Approved Collector Compliance Method, grading projects, or projects under 1,000 ft².*

- **What is a Debris Management Plan (DMP)?**

The [DMP](#) identifies the types and quantities of materials that will be generated by your project and will help you choose the appropriate recycling facilities or services. The plan must be completed by the contractor identified on your building or grading permit and be submitted to the DPW Recycling Section prior to permit issuance.

- **When can I get a refund?**

Within 180 days of receiving the Certificate of Occupancy (or passed final inspection), the permittee is responsible for ensuring the following is submitted to receive a full (or partial) refund, plus interest (-1% admin fee), within 30 days of a refund request:

- Submittal of a [Debris Management Report \(DMR\)](#)
- Submittal of all recycling and waste receipts
- Proof that all (or partial) diversion requirements were met.

- **What proof do I need to show that all (or partial) diversion requirements were met?**

If C&D materials are reused on-site, the permittee shall estimate the weight of the material based on the capacity of the container or vehicle transporting the material and shall submit a statement detailing how the materials were reused along with photographic evidence.

If C&D was self-hauled off-site for salvage, or collected by a third party for salvage, the permittee is required to provide a receipt or other proof of diversion including photos or any other information relevant to determining compliance.

For Major Grading projects, a certification letter from a licensed engineer stating that 100% of the required materials were diverted through reuse on-site or salvaged for off-site use/storage. A Final Debris Management Report along with all associated receipts and backup photos must be submitted in conjunction with the letter.

- **What if I do not meet all the refund criteria?**

If the project does not meet the 65%/90% recycling requirement(s), the permittee will receive a refund on a pro-rated basis depending on the degree of compliance within 30-days of submitting a [Final Debris Management Report](#).

- **What if I cannot recycle?**

If it is infeasible for the project to meet the requirements to recycle 90% of inerts and 65% overall of project materials, the applicant may apply for an exemption. If the exemption is granted, the Solid Waste and Recycling Section of the Department of Public Works shall determine what percentage of construction and demolition debris the applicant is required to recycle.

- **What are some examples of when an exemption would be granted?**



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- If a recycling facility (or facilities) is located beyond a 50-mile radius of the project site.
- If there is no facility available to recycle the construction debris (i.e. roofing tiles)
- Visit the following links for:
 - A list of [Exempt Projects](#)
 - [Additional information on exemptions](#)

● **What materials need to be recycled?**

RECYCLABLE MATERIALS		
INERT MATERIAL	GENERAL C&D MATERIAL	GRADING MATERIAL
Asphalt & Concrete	Appliances	Excavated Soils
Dirt/Rock/Sand	Cabinets/Doors/Windows/Fixtures	Trees/Stumps
Brick/Masonry/Tile	Cardboard	Rocks
Mixed Inerts*	Carpet & Carpet Padding/Foam	Associated Vegetation
	Landscaping/Greenery	
	Drywall	
	Roofing	
	Wood/Pallets/Crates	

Note: This list is not all inclusive

* Mixed inerts must be taken to a certified [mixed processing facility](#).

● **What is a Certified Mixed C&D Recycling Facility?**

A Certified Mixed C&D Recycling Facility accepts commingled loads of most C&D debris. The materials are then sorted by the facility and marketed separately. Mixed C&D loads generally includes materials such as metals, untreated wood, inerts, drywall, concrete, asphalt, carpet padding and foam, pallets, clean dirt, and cardboard packaging.

● **What haulers are available?**

Please see our [list of Approved Collectors](#) for more information.

● **Can I haul my own waste and recycling?**

Yes. Please see our [List of Recycling Facilities](#). Be sure to call in advance for pricing and any material or hauling restrictions.

- If your project is >1,000 ft² and material will be self-hauled, a performance guarantee must be placed (Approved Collector method will not apply).

● **Where can I find additional information about certified mixed recycling facilities and Approved C&D Collectors?**

Additional resources can be found by:

- Visiting www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/cdhome.html
- Calling 1-877-R-1-EARTH (1-877-713-2784)
- Emailing CDRecycling@sdcounty.ca.gov

● **What is CALGreen?**

CALGreen is California’s first green building code and first in the nation state-mandated green building code. The purpose of CALGreen is to improve public health, safety, and general welfare through enhanced design



and construction of buildings using concepts which reduce negative impacts and promote those principles which have a positive environmental impact and encourage sustainable construction practices.

- CALGreen Website: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/CAGBSC2019/cover>

- **What is deconstruction?**

Please visit our [deconstruction](#) webpage to learn more