



WEB BASED CORE APPLICATION SPECIFIC INSTALLATION INFORMATION AND METHODS



Window and Door Disposal

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Best Practices for Window and Door Disposal

When windows have been replaced, there is debris. If it is a box-frame (blindstop) install or a full, frame-out, replacement there will be the old sash, frame and hardware to dispose of. The town's recycling program probably may or may not accept glass windows and doors, but that doesn't necessarily mean you should throw them in the trash. If the glass is still in good shape with no cracks, you can recycle them. Savvy dealers and window contractors probably have already made a few phone calls and would be willing to transport the windows themselves, but perhaps even better is there is a chance to sell them for a small profit.

Aluminum, for example, earns a reasonable price as scrap. Old wood windows can be recycled as decorative pieces in the better home furnishing outlets. Interior designers look for those type of items. Old windows and some doors can be donated to a building material reuse company, or be used them to construct greenhouses or cold frames for gardens. Glass, when it's cracked or removed from the old window and door, is pretty much scrap. Perhaps it can be recycled, but it is not the same as bottle glass, so the local re-cycle would probably be the judge of what is worthwhile recycling and what is not.

Creative industry professionals are finding other uses for old windows. The glass can be melted and remanufactured into Fiberglas. Ground glass can be incorporated into "glassphalt", a glass and asphalt blend, or stirred into the reflective yellow and white paint used on roads. Broken glass is combined with concrete to create terrazzo flooring and counter tops. Old windows can also be reused as is.

Separate Broken Glass

The first step is to separate any recyclable glass from any glass that is trash. Remove any glass that has cracks, chips or holes in it from the door or window and place it in the trash. Badly pitted, soiled or stained glass that you cannot easily clean should also be disposed of. Remove glass that isn't recyclable by covering it with a thick towel and chipping it out with a hammer. Always wear safety goggles when attempting to break glass.



Building Materials Reuse Association

Check the Building Materials Reuse Association website to locate a nearby company or organization that accepts old windows and doors. This directory is organized by state and lists salvage companies that will buy your glass (price depends on condition).

According to material published by the NAHB, contractors should be aware that it is difficult for a contractor to shift potential liability for "hazardous" waste materials generated on their job sites due to the complexity of federal environmental laws and local codes.

The largest sources of residential construction materials that could be considered hazardous under state and federal statutes are waste solvents, paints and coatings, and adhesives. Examples of potentially hazardous materials include (but are not limited to):

- adhesives
- caulking
- paint/lacquer
- coatings
- shellac
- paint stripper
- sealers
- asphalt
- resins/epoxies
- antifreeze
- solvents
- waterproofing agents

Projects including demolition could involve other hazardous materials such as lead paint and asbestos.

Given the remodeler's exposure under federal law, it is prudent to generate and maintain documentation of disposal steps. Contractors only need to look as far as the required sealing, bagging and wrapping requirements of the RRP laws and follow those procedures.

While general rules applying to RRP Lead Safe Renovation disposal allow bagged and sealed debris to be put to the curb for regular residential garbage pickup, confirming all the requirements in the local municipalities is the smart way to determine the best disposal procedures for your window replacement work.

OSHA Rules

If you are not familiar with OSHA rules and regulations, they will apply to many jobs- especially jobs where work is done above 6 feet above ground.

1926.252(a) Whenever materials are dropped more than 20 feet to any point lying outside the exterior walls of the building, an enclosed chute of wood, or equivalent material, shall be used. For the purpose of this paragraph, an enclosed chute is a slide, closed in on all sides, through which material is moved from a high place to a lower one.

1926.252(b) When debris is dropped through holes in the floor without the use of chutes, the area onto which the material is dropped shall be completely enclosed with barricades not less than 42 inches high and not less than 6 feet back from the projected edge of the opening above. Signs warning of the hazard of falling materials shall be posted at each level. Removal shall not be permitted in this lower area until debris handling ceases above.

1926.252(c) All scrap lumber, waste material, and rubbish shall be removed from the immediate work area as the work progresses.

1926.252(d) Disposal of waste material or debris by burning shall comply with local fire regulations.

1926.252(e) All solvent waste, oily rags, and flammable liquids shall be kept in fire resistant covered containers until removed from work site.

Most window and door replacement is a small renovation, with minimal debris other than the old window sash and frame. Using heavy-duty contractor bags for the discarded parts and components that can't be recycled or sold when properly sealed, will be adequate for disposal

