

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REUSE OF BUILDING MATERIALS

Now that the renovations are complete or the old homestead is torn down, what is to be done with all the waste? While construction and demolition waste can be brought to the landfill for a fee, why not consider giving those pieces of lumber or windows a new life by reusing or donating them? Plenty of building materials are fit for reuse if they are taken out with care during the demolition phase. Bricks, dimensional lumber, windows, and doors are just some examples of the many different types of materials in a home or barn that could be reused instead of ending up in the landfill where those materials will sit forever.

When planning a renovation, or even putting up a new building, consider reused building materials to keep the cost down as well as to add a charming character to your home. Not only will reusing building materials save money, it will also save space in our landfill. One of the largest portions of waste in our landfill is construction and demolition material. While most of this waste is harmless in a landfill, it does take up more space than everyday household waste. If usable building materials, and other recyclables, are kept out of our landfill we can keep it open longer and avoid having to create a new landfill. Having less material go in the landfill would bring in less revenue, but the benefits of extending the life of our landfill outweigh the short term loss in revenue from diverting those materials to beneficial uses. Without having to mine for more metals or cut down more trees we can save even more money through cleaner air and water as well as cheaper building materials.

When looking for a local option to donate building materials that are fit for reuse, contact Washington Street Productions at (530) 690-5653. Some items they are currently looking for include fence boards, tin roofs, dimensional lumber, old wooden frame windows, as well as furniture in good condition. Washington Street Productions is an employment program developed by the Tehama County Department of Social Services for their CalWORKs clients. Another option is the Habitat for Humanity ReStore located in Chico, to contact them call (530) 865-1271. The ReStore also sells used building materials to help fund the Habitat for Humanity's mission of building affordable homes. While helping them by donating or purchasing used building materials, families gain access to affordable housing and the landfill reduces the amount of waste it buries. It is a win for all!

Some things to keep in mind when starting a new construction project or adding an addition is the California Green Building Code, which requires reusing or recycling at least 65 percent of the construction and demolition debris. This applies to all new residential and non-residential construction, as well as additions and alterations, if building outside the City of Red Bluff. If the project is inside the City of Red Bluff and greater than 5,000 square feet it must comply with the City's ordinance. For more information about the Green Building Code or reuse and recycling of building materials, contact the Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency at (530) 528-1103 or visit our website www.tehamacountylandfill.com.