

5.6 Construction & Demolition Debris

Class III landfills are not required to accept construction and demolition (C&D) debris, even from projects that benefit the community, such as water/sewer projects, schools, or housing improvement projects.

C&D is regulated based on local laws and ordinances. However, before any C&D debris is accepted at the landfill, the project contractor should submit a building survey showing that all hazardous wastes and asbestos-containing materials were removed prior to demolition.

What is C&D debris?

C&D debris is the waste material generated by anything from a home remodel to a full demolition of a building. In rural communities, the source is often construction, demolition, or renovation of community or commercial facilities and water/sewer systems. ADEC recommends only accepting C&D debris from local residential users and not from commercial projects.

What should be considered prior to accepting commercially generated C&D debris at the landfill?

Costs

- The disposal of C&D waste can have a significant cost to the community.
- This includes the costs of handling the debris, including the operator's time, equipment fuel and time, and the space the waste takes up in the landfill.

Landfill Capacity

- C&D debris is bulky and difficult to compact, so it takes up a large amount of landfill space and shortens the life of the landfill.
- Landfills are extremely expensive to replace, so it is important to use the space responsibly to ensure a long-term disposal option for the community.

Design

- A landfill's design alters how C&D debris is handled.

Equipment

- C&D debris is bulky and difficult to compact. It cannot be managed by hand or with a small skidsteer. Larger equipment is needed to place, compact, and cover this waste.
- If the landfill does not have the proper equipment, the generator may have the equipment needed to place, compact, and cover the waste.
- If the contractor is volunteering use of equipment, be sure the work is completed before the contractor leaves the community

Personnel

- To ensure proper handling and sorting, the landfill operator should have training on C&D debris management before any of this waste is accepted at the landfill.
- If the contractor is hauling the C&D to the landfill, the operator should be present during waste disposal to sort the loads to ensure that there are no prohibited materials present such as liquid paint, solvents, or hazardous wastes.

Hazardous Materials

- Hazardous materials in buildings can include mercury thermostats, exit signs, asbestos, lead based paint, and fluorescent lights.
- A hazardous building materials assessment AND a building demolition notification to EPA are required.

If the landfill does not have enough space, the necessary heavy equipment, or available cover material at the landfill for proper disposal of C&D debris, it is important to work out ahead of time whether the waste generator can help with the disposal. If the generator cannot help, do not accept it. Remember: it is the generator's responsibility to properly dispose of the waste. If the operator accepts the waste, it becomes the operator's responsibility.

How C&D debris is regulated in rural communities:

- The landfill must be permitted to legally accept C&D debris.
- Acceptance policies for C&D debris can be established in local laws and ordinances. Communities should consider enacting an ordinance that clearly defines the fees for accepting C&D debris and any other rules for disposal of this waste.



C&D debris staged for backhaul in the community.

Helpful Tips:

- Waste disposal options should be discussed with the funding agency when a community project is being planned so that the disposal requirements for the project are appropriately addressed in the contract and bid documents.
- Materials that are salvageable should be sorted out prior to being transported to the landfill so they can be staged for safe salvaging by the public.
- Nails can pop tires, so C&D debris should be kept away from access roads in the landfill.
- Accepting C&D debris from a project is not an all-or-nothing decision. If the landfill can only handle part of the waste, that is OK. Only accept what you can properly manage.
- Sharing information about how and when to transport waste with contractors will help remove the waste from the community.
- Consider setting rules for contractors on how waste must be delivered or required the C&D debris to be pre-processed to a certain size, length, or set dimension to make it easier to handle.

Examples:



C&D debris disposed of in a trench-and-fill landfill.