

# What building materials can be recycled?

## Reduce

Builders can reduce waste by:

- using standard-sized and/or prefabricated building materials to reduce offcuts, waste, and the costs of handling and disposal
- including a waste minimisation plan in their contract
- using second-hand or recycled materials
- salvaging as much material as possible from a demolished structure for a new one.

## Reuse

Unwanted building materials, fixtures and fittings, and heritage items such as old fireplaces and windows, can be sold at specialist or general second-hand or salvage outlets.

## Recycle

The recycling of waste can generate substantial savings in building and construction.

Material	Reuse and Recycling
Masonry, concrete, construction aggregate	Pavements, roads, car parks, driveways, shoulder aggregate, pipe bedding, erosion control, landscaping
Bricks, tiles	Salvaged and resold
Timber	Floorboards, reconstituted panel boards, doors, furniture, fencing, mulch
Glass	Crushed for compaction fill
Insulation material	Housing insulation
Metals	Melted and remade into secondary materials for structural steel, roofing, piping etc.

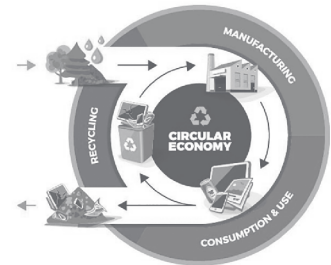
Material	Reuse and Recycling
Trees, organic material	Compost
Plastics	Secondary materials for playgrounds, park benches etc.
Paper, cardboard	Mulch, compost, animal bedding, newsprint, egg cartons, packaging
Fittings (baths, toilets, sinks)	Salvaged and resold

## What is a Circular Economy?

A Circular Economy is an alternative to the wasteful traditional 'linear' economy based on 'take, make, use and dispose'.

It's a self-sustaining system driven by renewable energy with an imperative to keep material resources in use, or 'circulating' for as long as possible. It extracts the maximum value from these resources while in use, then recovers and regenerates products and materials.

The Circular Economy is a designed system, and in order to build a truly circular construction and demolition industry, new materials, tools, and systems that are designed to prevent waste should be a priority.



## Recycling and waste management – who to contact:

The Which Bin website, [www.whichbin.sa.gov.au](http://www.whichbin.sa.gov.au) and the Which Bin phone hotline 1300 137 118 provide how, where and what to recycle in South Australia.

Contact your local council.

**WARNING: \$300 on-the-spot fine may apply.**

## For further information

**Environment Protection Authority**    **Your Industry Association**  
 Phone: 08 8204 2004  
 Freecall (country): 1800 623 445  
 Website: [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)  
 Email: [epainfo@sa.gov.au](mailto:epainfo@sa.gov.au)

**KESAB environmental solutions**  
 Phone: 08 8234 7255  
 Website: [www.kesab.asn.au](http://www.kesab.asn.au)



The **Clean Site** program is a KESAB *environmental solutions* industry education initiative supported by the EPA, Construction Industry Training Board, the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and Office of Green Industries SA in partnership with Master Builders SA and the HIA.

