



**Material change for
a better environment**

Woodworkers, carpenters & joiners: Reducing the cost of waste on site

The Halving Waste to Landfill Commitment

Specialist and SME contractors commit to:

- estimating waste
- **finding ways to reduce waste**
- **avoiding waste on site**
- **recycling more waste**
- recording and reporting waste

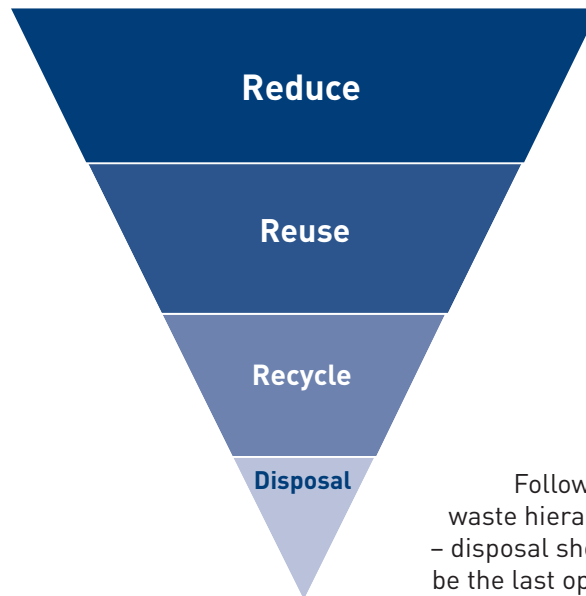


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Why reduce waste?

Reducing the waste produced on site will benefit both your business and your clients.

- reducing material purchase and waste disposal costs will save you money
- meet client requirements for waste generation, reuse or recycling
- demonstrate you are an informed contractor and enhance your reputation



Follow the waste hierarchy – disposal should be the last option

The True Cost of Waste

The cost of waste can be as much as £1300 per skip when you include the value of the wasted materials.

- VAT 20%
- Labour 3%
- Skip hire 12%
- Value of wasted materials 65%

Source AMEC



Some jobs can waste up to 50% of the timber purchased – quality timber product could be worth £500/tonne!

How can I reduce waste?

- make sure you can sell back or return unused timber to your suppliers
- use better quality timber – although it may be a higher price, you may get a better yield, saving time and money
- buy materials with less packaging
- use offsite prefabrication if possible as this will produce less waste
- order only the amount you need for the job
- get deliveries to match work stages – avoiding storage of materials on site longer than needed
- make sure your timber is delivered and handled properly to avoid damage
- plan ahead to reduce offcuts – be selective of lengths and plan to use any off-cuts

Use all the empty space in a skip or sack – you're charged per pickup.

How can I reuse materials?

- set up a storage area for offcuts and ensure they are not damaged
- use offcuts first – let all staff know that offcuts are there for use
- coordinate jobs so that leftover timber from one job can be reused on the next
- try to use suppliers who use and collect returnable packaging like pallets
- use online scrap groups to find takers for unused and salvaged timber items, or donate to charities and community groups

How can I recycle more waste?

- segregate waste – such as treated timber / untreated timber / panel products – this increases the value and can reduce waste management costs
- send your waste wood to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) or wood recycling site – instead of to landfill
- use waste contactors who will recycle your waste
- keep a check on the local market for waste wood – you may be surprised at the value of your waste materials
- try to use suppliers who use recyclable packaging – many will also take your packaging waste away and recycle it for you

There is growing demand for virgin timber as wood fuel. If you stockpile it you may get a lower disposal cost.



A mixed waste skip costs around £400 to dispose, but segregated good virgin timber can be **sold**.

Need help?

Helpline freephone 0808 100 2040
www.wrap.org.uk/construction