

Are you considering a Green remodel?

Along with sustainable architecture and responsible use of materials, choosing deconstruction over demolition is a responsible choice.

Soft-stripping, or non-structural deconstruction, can be done by a homeowner or contractor. Soft stripping involves removing non-structural components, such as:

- Appliances in perfect working condition and no more than 10 years old
- Cabinets that are complete (meaning the entire box plus doors and drawers) and have no water damage
- Doors with no rot, broken glass or peeling paint
- Windows must be double-paned and whole (with the frame intact)
- Lighting in good working order
- Plumbing fixtures must contain no rust or other significant damage
- Almost any woodwork, such as mantels, columns and leaded glass windows, as long as they're complete
- Large remnants of new flooring
- Hardware such as doorknobs in complete sets



Structural deconstruction involves removing the structural components such as bricks, stone and lumber. This is usually done by a contractor and only when there is a known market for the items.

Every item that you can salvage from your home means less going into the landfill and less natural resources being harvested. Deconstruction takes more time, and that means more money, but it also results in a lesser disposal cost and possible tax deductions if you donate the items to a non-profit organization.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore is one of the most well known centers to donate construction materials. The Salvation Army may also be able accept some of these items. Before starting your project, check with your local center to find out what they can and cannot accept. Another option is selling or exchanging items through websites like craigslist, eBay or Freecycle.

For more information:

http://www.habitat.org/getinv/materials_donations.aspx

<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/ideas/green-demo-within-your-means>

<http://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/blogs/dept/green-communities/deconstruction-versus-demolition>



Putnam County Department of Health ~ Recycling and Solid Waste
Questions? Call 845-808-1390, ext. 43254

