

Toolkit for Greener Practices
Showcase of Ideas
Option 1-5: Deconstruction

Demolition Site

Site conditions:

Any cleanup site at which buildings to be demolished contain salvageable material with architectural or recycling value.

Preventive activity description:

Deconstruction is the process of manually dismantling architectural details, fixtures and construction materials that have resale value or can be reused. In Minnesota, there are no known cleanups that required demolition of such a building, however it is not inconceivable for the future. At a U.S. Department of Defense cleanup site in the Twin Cities area, deconstruction was performed on buildings unrelated to cleanup operations.

Benefits realized through the Pollution Prevention/Sustainability approach:

- Recover salvageable material otherwise slated for a landfill
- Protect natural resources by conservation

Keys to Success

- Accurate estimate of value of architectural components and deconstruction labor
- Cleanup or site development timing allows for manual dismantling of materials.