

Fact Sheet: Wood



Types of Wood Waste

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|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| - Crates | - Poles/Posts | - Beams |
| - Pallets | - Boards/Sheets | - Wood shavings/sawdust |
| - Cutoffs | | |

Currently, in Alberta the largest market for wood waste is feedstock for the production of roofing materials. However it is also used for landscaping and livestock bedding applications¹.

Wood as Waste

As of 2004, wood accounts for **10% of the total ICI waste composition**, while wood accounts for **34.4% of total C&D waste composition**. These percentages equate to **158,424 tonnes** of wood waste going into Calgary's landfills each year².

Landfilling wood costs \$50/tonne, whereas recycling wood cost \$20-25/tonne.

Scrap wood boards can also be refurbished into finger-jointed lumber that is resold in the market. Supporting these initiatives where possible will save you money, provide jobs locally, and help you reduce your environmental impact.

Options for Wood Waste

- Send cutoffs, poles/posts, and broken pallets to wood chippers. Contact your local recyclers to find out how to increase the financial potential of your wood waste!
- Contact CMEX staff if you have or are looking for pallets and we'll work our magic to match the generators with those companies that need them as an input;
- Sell wood waste to facilities that make fuel, mulch, compost, material for particle board, or animal bedding;
- Buy or make finger-jointed lumber;
- Give scrap pieces to employees for building projects and fireplaces;
- Take preventative action on wood waste by reexamining manufacturing techniques to minimize the amount of wood waste you have to deal with!

Look for wood products that are FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified. This will ensure that the lumber was harvested from forests that are managed in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. For more information on the program and the products available visit: <http://www.fsccanada.org/>.

¹ <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/aow/waste/industrial.html>

² EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd. 2006. Executive Summary: The City of Calgary ICI/C&D Waste Characterization Study Prepared for: The City of Calgary, Waste and Recycling Services.