



## Successful Recycling Programs



### **How Can You Ensure that Your Recycling Program Will Be Successful?**

Diverting waste from the landfill and practicing recycling pays off by lowering material and disposal costs. Here are some suggestions to some common challenges that even the best programs can face.

#### **Manage Your Program**

Designate an on-site leader with appropriate authority who will be responsible for educating the crew and subcontractors, setting up the site and coordinating and supervising recycling efforts to prevent the contamination of recycling loads. Include all waste-handling requirements and expectations in all project documents.

#### **Involve Subcontractors**

Require subcontractors to use the on-site recycling and disposal bins or require them to recycle their own waste and provide documentation (how much weight of what material and who did they go to recycle).

#### **Find Appropriate Space**

Recycling and reuse efforts require space. Set aside an area of the jobsite (or find a common area of several adjacent job sites – the fewer palaces on a large site the better) to store salvaged building materials and house recycling bins for either commingled or source-separated loads.

#### **Educate and Communicate**

Communicate your plan to the crew and subcontractors on site. They will need to know: the overall material plan and its advantages, who is going to receive the materials, how materials should be separated, where materials should be shipped, and when the materials will be collected and delivered to the appropriate facilities.

#### **Prevent Contamination**

Adopt strategies to prevent contamination by clearly labeling the recycling bins and waste containers on site. Post lists of what is recyclable and what is non-recyclable materials. Use a visible tally board to track volume. Conduct regular site visits to verify that bins are not contaminated. Provide feedback to the crew and subcontractors on the results of their efforts.

#### **Reward the Behavior**

Celebrate the success of efforts on the project in a public manner to reinforce the behavior you want on the next jobsite.