

WHY THIS MATTERS

Benefits, Impacts & Incentives

Deconstruction offers big benefits for Marin—protecting the environment, supporting local jobs, and giving usable materials back to our community.

Environment

Reduces landfill waste, conserves resources, and lowers embodied carbon.

Economic

Reuse supports local jobs in material recovery, resale, and construction.

Community Impact

Donated materials help affordable housing projects and nonprofits.

Homeowner Incentives

Federal tax deductions are available for donated materials.

**ZERO
WASTE
MARIN**

HOW HOMEOWNERS CAN GET STARTED

- 01 Review With Builder** Ask your contractor/builder about deconstruction instead of demolition.
- 02 Contact Reuse Non-Profit** Contact a reuse organization for recommended deconstruction firms
- 03 Get County Guidance** Check County permitting guidance on deconstruction and waste diversion.
- 04 Work with Decon Team** Select deconstruction firm and complete work.
- 05 Appraiser on Tax Valuation** Work with a professional appraiser to document materials for tax deduction.

Learn More

Zero Waste Marin

zerowastemarin.org/construction-demolition

Marin County Building & Safety Division

marincounty.org

GreenLynx

greenlynx.net



REBUILDING BETTER

Residential
Deconstruction
in Marin County

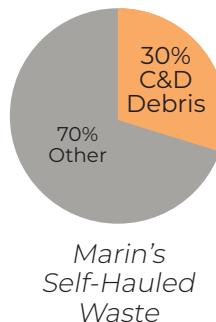
ZERØWASTEMARIN

DECONSTRUCTION

Cut Construction & Demolition Waste, Boost Reuse

Construction and Demolition (C&D) projects are large generators of waste. A 2024 study done by Zero Waste Marin found that over 30% of self-hauled waste consists of construction and demolition debris.

With self-hauled waste accounting for 50% of Marin's waste stream, it's important to increase C&D diversion. Deconstruction is a solution that gives building materials a second life.



What Is Deconstruction?

Deconstruction is the process of carefully taking apart a building to salvage materials with the intent to put them back into circulation for use in another project. This is different from demolition, where the goal is to take down a building as quickly as possible without salvaging material.

Common examples of building materials that could be salvaged through deconstruction include:

- Appliances
- Lumber
- Cabinets
- Flooring
- Windows



LOCAL EXAMPLE

Tiburon Kitchen, Bathroom, & Hardwood Floors Get a Second Life

Tiburon homeowners were doing a major remodel of their house that was built in 1991. The materials that were set to be removed from the home as part of the remodel appeared to range from good to excellent condition, which led the homeowners to consider that they still might be useful in another home.

Process & Partners

The homeowners decided to work with GreenLynx, a certified deconstruction contractor, who then worked collaboratively with the general contractor hired for the home project. GreenLynx completed an inventory of the material and provided it to a certified appraiser. The appraiser then worked with the homeowners to provide a valuation of the material, which was used to fill out the appropriate IRS documentation for a donation which was greater than \$40,000.

Note: ZWM does not provide tax advice and is providing this only as an example. Consult your tax professional.

Recovered materials from this project included:

- Appliances
- Cabinetry & woodwork
- Interior doors, jambs & hardware
- Lighting & electrical fixtures
- Plumbing fixtures



Project Cost Comparison

The project's deconstruction costs were offset by tax deductions for donated materials and lower disposal fees, keeping total expenses comparable to demolition while also helping the environment.

“

So glad we did this and wish we had known earlier!

Tiburon Resident

”

Deconstruction projects can range in scale from an entire home renovation to a kitchen remodel.

In either case, deconstruction diverts materials from our landfills and puts them back into circulation for new projects.