

Building with Sustainably in Mind

A BRIEF GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

When selecting green building materials, be sure to consider whether or not they contain toxins. Additionally, you should consider the embodied energy of a material. **Embodied energy** is the total of *all the energy inputs over the lifetime of the material*. Some factors in determining embodied energy are where it comes from, if the procurement of the material is environmentally friendly, transportation distances, installation, and if it is recyclable.

THE LOWER THE EMBODIED ENERGY, THE **GREENER** THE PRODUCT.

START LOCAL

Locally sourced products not only have **lower embodied energy**, they are **better suited to the climate** and **help support the local economy**. Although it's not always possible to use hyper-local products, its best to begin your product search locally before expanding regionally, nationally, and when all else fails, internationally.

Common materials used in the Northwest include Ponderosa Pine and Western Hemlock lumber as they are a readily available resource in the region. Builders also use locally milled alder, fir, cedar and other native woods for finish wood, siding, framing and fencing.



USE RECYCLED AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

USED

easily some of the cheapest, most accessible, and popular materials, can be supplies from construction sites, donations, and reusing your own resources.

SUSTAINABLE

Resources with high energy efficiency and a low environmental footprint.
example: bamboo

CONCRETE

durable, porous, and recyclable, this is one of the most environmentally friendly products around.



WASTE PRODUCTS

Re-purposed waste products such as glass, cork, denim, cellulose insulation, and even paper waste turned into wood.

ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS

All highly-renewable resources that leave a minimal negative impact on the environment and recycled materials.

INNOVATIVE RECYCLABLES

Neptune balls (a seaweed grown in excess in the Mediterranean), unfired clay bricks, mushroom insulation,

RECYCLED PLASTICS

With massive amount of recycled plastic circulating the globe, turning plastic into ecobricks incur a cost to make, but help the planet on a larger scale.

LIGHTWEIGHT

Materials such as recycled steel and aluminum, bamboo, eco-concrete mixes, and newspaperwood.

Source: https://buildgreenh.com/recycled-building-materials/#Types_of_Recycled_Building_Materials

GREEN AND
RECLAIMED
MATERIALS

GREEN HOME SOLUTIONS

1210 W Nickerson St,
Seattle, WA 98119
ghsproducts.com

SMALL PLANET SUPPLY

8036 River Drive SE #200
Tumwater, WA 98501
smallplanetsupply.com

SECOND USE

3223 6th Ave S,
Seattle, WA 98134
seconduse.com

EARTHWISE

3447 4th Ave S,
Seattle, WA 98134
ewsalvage.com

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY STORE

13500 Bel-Red Rd,
Bellevue, WA
habitatstkc.org


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