

# A HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO SALVAGE + REUSE

## RENOVATING OR RESTORING AN OLDER HOME?

**That doesn't mean older materials need to go to waste!**

Construction and demolition waste accounts for about 23% of what goes into landfills nationally. **That's twice the amount that we throw into our household trash bins!**

Incorporating reuse and deconstruction into your next project can

- Benefit the environment
- Support the local economy
- Give new life to useable materials, and
- Prevent unnecessary waste.

## INCLUDE SALVAGE + REUSE IN YOUR PROJECT DESIGN

**Plan ahead to reduce demolition + construction waste!**



**Identify reuse opportunities** in your project and direct your designer, architect, engineer, and/or contractor to ensure as much is recycled or reused as possible.



**Donate or sell your reclaimed materials** on neighborhood email lists, on Facebook and/or Nextdoor groups, or to a local reuse center.



**Incorporate reclaimed building materials** into your project to give them a second life. Vintage and unique pieces can be found in reuse centers, boutiques, consignment stores, or online exchange marketplaces!



Keeping materials in the neighborhood from which they originated is a great way to support a local **CIRCULAR ECONOMY** which aims to continuously use existing resources instead of depending on raw or new goods.



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## CONSIDER DECONSTRUCTION OVER DEMOLITION

**Up to 95% of an older home can be reused or recycled!**

Deconstruction is the careful dismantling of a building in the opposite order it was constructed to maximize the salvage and reuse, repurposing, or recycling of materials.

Deconstruction **reduces environmental impact** by keeping materials out of landfills and reducing the need to harvest raw materials and manufacture new products for both construction and creative use, **increases economic impact** by creating jobs like abatement and retail, and **improves public health** by eliminating harmful lead- or asbestos-containing dust released into the air and water during demo.

## BENEFITS TO YOU + YOUR COMMUNITY

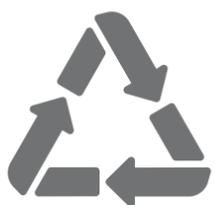
**Money saved, history preserved, community supported!**



Deconstruction limits trash disposal fees and creates opportunities for tax benefits if you donate materials to nonprofits.



Like an organ donor, salvaged materials save and extend lives of other older structures.



Besides supporting a local workforce, the deconstruction and salvage initiative supports the City of San Antonio's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050!

## ABOUT THE DECONSTRUCTION + SALVAGE INITIATIVE

Since 2018, the Office of Historic Preservation has been exploring a deconstruction and salvage initiative. Broad goals include:

- Developing and sustaining a local construction, heritage trades, and deconstruction workforce;
- Increasing the availability of high-quality and affordable salvaged materials;
- Addressing important environmental considerations, including reduction of carbon emissions, reduction of raw material and water consumption, reduction of airborne toxic pollutants associated with demolition, and reduction of construction waste;
- Encouraging neighborhood continuity and developing a local circular economy; and
- Achieving citywide sustainability goals, including waste reduction and material reuse goals outlined in the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

In 2019, the City offered its first deconstruction contractor training for demolition and general contractors registered with the City of San Antonio. More contractor training opportunities and workforce training for those new to the industry are anticipated in 2020.

**For more information or to get involved, contact  
Stephanie Phillips at (210) 207-7902 or [stephanie@sapreservation.com](mailto:stephanie@sapreservation.com).**

**Follow the Deconstruction + Salvage Initiative at [bit.ly/SAdecon](https://bit.ly/SAdecon)**