

KNOWLEDGE HUB

The true cost of disposing of a skip full of plasterboard

According to WRAP, plasterboard can make up almost a third of all waste produced on a fit out, with as much as 20% coming from new plasterboard delivered to site for the project. So FIS has been working with WRAP, the Gypsum Products Development Association (GPDA) to look at ways of reducing waste through the design process as part of the wider Resource Efficiency Action Plan for plasterboard.

The partnership carried out an exercise which revealed that it can cost between £2,068 and £2,596 to dispose of a skip full of plasterboard off cuts.

Clearly any savings that can be made go straight to the bottom line, so the group has identified a number of ways to reduce this waste including:

In the design process

- Consider using single layer but thicker boards to reduce the number of boards on site
- Set out the ceiling height to match standard board sizes
- Order bespoke size boards from the manufacturers to reduce the size of the off cut
- Check the setting out to reduce board waste
- Engage with the manufacturers to standardise on components and reduce waste.

On site

- Ensure boards are stored on dry, level ground
- Ensure that the fork truck driver is aware that the forks are likely to be longer than the width of a board, to avoid vertical scrape lines damaging the stack
- Look to use off cuts as patress panels shared by other trades
- Discuss take back schemes for waste with the manufacturers/distributors on larger projects.

Reducing the cost of waste further can be achieved by segregating the waste and employing a gypsum recycling company or returning the waste directly to a manufacturer, By avoiding the landfill and monocell gate fee, even adding the charge from the recycler, savings of around £500 per six tonne skip are achievable.

If 20% of all plasterboard delivered to site goes off site in a skip, this equates to £8.25 – £10.38 for every sheet of 2700 x 1200 x 12.5 plasterboard, which is considerably more than its original cost.

Cost to fill a skip with plasterboard waste			
		Multiplied by	Total cost
Cost per tonne	£172 - £260	6	£1,032 - £1,560
Landfill (per tonne)	£56	6	£336
Monocell gate fee (per tonne)	£75	6	£450
Skip hire, say	£50	1	£50
Transport, say	£100	1	£100
Labour cost to fill skip, say	£100	1	£100
Total cost			£2,068 - £2,596