



Do you want to encourage the use of recycled content construction materials?

Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- **Meet environmental compliance regulations.** Comply with Executive Order 13101 requirements and EPA comprehensive procurement guidelines by purchasing recycled content construction materials (RCCM). Media area is solid waste.
- **Improve workers' safety and health.** No change to current operations.
- **Increase productivity.** No change to current operations.
- **Save money.** Many RCCMs cost less than virgin content construction materials. Additionally, there is a cost avoidance benefit derived from recycling rather than disposal.



Recycled Content Floor Tiles

Federal procurement guidelines and directives require Department of Defense agencies to purchase recycled content products for EPA designated items. Certain construction materials such as floor tiles, carpeting, and paint have been designated by EPA as affirmative procurement items that may contain recycled content. As a service to Navy designers and builders, the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center has compiled a table showing which Naval Facilities Engineering Command guide specifications for building design include the use of RCCMs. This table helps the building designer to identify which construction materials are required to contain recycled content when writing the design specifications. Another resource to help building designers identify the use of RCCMs is the Whole Building Design Guide at www.wbdg.org.

How can you achieve these improvements?

Purchase recycled content construction materials.

How does this method work?

Recycled content products are made from materials that would otherwise go into the landfill.

How will this method save you money?

Affirmative procurement stimulates recycling markets. As a result, material that would be sent to a landfill at a cost can be recycled to generate revenue. Some recycled content construction materials are also less expensive than virgin content construction materials.



How can this method eliminate or reduce pollution?

Purchasing recycled-content products increases the recycled-product market and reduces the disposal of recyclable materials. Implementation will result in the following pollution reductions:

- Reduce the quantity of solid waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators.
- Reduce the quantity of solid waste transported off-site from Navy installations.
- Reduce the quantity of waste generated from the manufacturing process using raw or virgin materials.

Which applications can benefit most from this method?

RCCMs can be used on new construction and renovation projects.

How can this method reduce regulatory compliance concerns?

Purchasing construction materials made from recycled-content products increases the demand for recycled materials. This practice will result in the following regulatory compliance benefits:

- Helps facilities comply with the waste reduction and affirmative procurement requirements of Executive Order 13101.
- Helps facilities comply with 40 CFR 247 and meet the EPA's recovered materials advisory notice.
- May help facilities meet pertinent solid waste reduction goals including the Department of Defense Measure of Merit goal to ensure the diversion rate for non-hazardous solid waste is greater than 40% by 2005.



Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by using pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This fact sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to use pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

For additional information, contact:

Information on recycled content construction products can be found on the US EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site (**Web:** <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products.htm#construct>). A table showing NAVFAC guide specifications for building design can be seen at <http://enviro.nfesc.navy.mil/esc426/Documents/CPGINNFGS.htm>.

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