

Demolition Debris Management of Debris Resulting from Natural Disasters or Planned Demolition Activities

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Waste & Materials Management
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Each year, severe storms destroy homes, barns and other buildings across Wisconsin. In a crisis, emergency management of debris places yet another burden on property owners and emergency managers. Typically, a great deal of demolition debris needs to be managed in a short period of time.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is concerned with public health, safety, and environmental impacts when demolition debris is mismanaged. The Waste and Materials Management Program offers assistance to communities in managing storm-generated debris, and to individuals interested in razing a single structure.

Typical types of waste generated from both natural disasters and planned demolition activities, along with proper disposal methods, are listed below.

Clean¹ soil, brick, building stone, concrete, broken asphalt pavement, wood waste from downed trees, and unpainted or untreated wood

These items may be disposed of *without DNR approval* as long as the site selected does not impact surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, and critical habitat areas. Contact waste staff for assistance on locating an appropriate disposal site. The term “clean” refers to material that is unpainted, untreated, and not contaminated with petroleum or other contaminants. Communities should consider composting or chipping smaller wood waste for use in landscapes damaged by the storm event or offering clean wood waste for use as firewood. Clean brick, building stone, concrete and asphalt may be stockpiled for crushing and reusing in future building projects.

Roofing metals, siding, and other metals including appliances

This material may be easily recycled and therefore should be stockpiled and hauled to a scrap metal recycler. Some appliances may contain hazardous substances such as freon. Freon must be removed by qualified and licensed personnel and items containing freon or other hazardous substances should be stockpiled separately from other metals. You may want to consider incorporating a list of metal and appliance recyclers into each county emergency plan.

Asbestos containing materials- siding, flooring, roofing and insulation

Asbestos containing items normally require special handling by **licensed** personnel and proper disposal. You should always contact the appropriate air management specialist for details on proper identification and handling of materials containing asbestos. Please see the contact list at the end of this document.

Hazardous waste in the form of paints, solvents, fuels and pesticides

Many municipalities have collection programs capable of handling household hazardous wastes. If your community does not have a household hazardous waste program, arrangements can be made with an outside contractor to establish a household hazardous waste disposal drop-off and collection service. You should always contact your local DNR waste staff for details and assistance in obtaining approval by using the list of contacts on the reverse side. Staff can also assist communities with questions regarding proper management and disposal of contaminated soil.

Glass, asphalt and fiberglass roofing, carpeting and pad, insulation, PVC piping, siding, drywall, plaster, and personal items such as clothing and furniture

Items that cannot be recycled or reused **require disposal in a local licensed landfill, or an approved one-time disposal or construction and demolition landfill site.**²

Open burning

Open burning of trees³, wood, brush, and other clean wood waste is an option, but **requires prior DNR approval or concurrence**; however, this may not be the best option. Open burning results in the release of contaminants to the air, water and land, and may have an adverse impact on human health and the environment. Also, a fire spreading out of control is always a serious concern and stretches needed emergency personnel even thinner. A wild fire resulting from open burning activities could cost you money, if the local fire department is called out to suppress the fire. Chipping, composting, and using clean wood waste for firewood should be the options considered first!

There is no substitute for careful planning before an emergency occurs. Emergency planning should include a current list of DNR contacts that can assist communities in an emergency. These plans may also identify the location and transportation routes to licensed disposal facilities and household hazardous waste collection facilities. Similarly, communities should identify areas where clean wood wastes, metals and clean concrete, block, brick, etc. may be segregated for proper management once the emergency has subsided. Communities may consider pursuing the development of an approved small demolition landfill.

DNR contacts

Air Management Program

For open burning questions, contact: Jeff Artus, 715-409-6060, jeffrey.artus@wisconsin.gov

For asbestos abatement and demolition questions, contact: Mark Davis, 262-574-2118, mark.davis@wisconsin.gov

Waste and Materials Management Program

To find your regional waste staff person, go to the [DNR staff directory](#) and search by subject using “recycling, construction and demolition materials.”

If you need assistance from Department of Natural Resources staff during non-business hours, please call the emergency hotline at 1-800-943-0003 press 1 when prompted and ask the DNR duty officer to contact a local DNR representative to assist you.

Contact DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov for further information.

References

¹NR 500.08(2)(a) Wisconsin Administrative Code

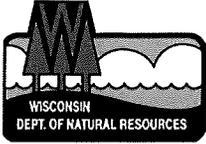
²NR 503.08 Wisconsin Administrative Code

³NR 429.04(1)(i), NR 30 and NR 502.11, Wisconsin Administrative Code

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.

DOCUMENT ID

WA-20-0601-C

DOCUMENT TITLE

Demolition Debris- Management of Debris Resulting from Natural Disasters or Planned Demolition Activities

PROGRAM/BUREAU

Waste and Materials Management

STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

Ch. 389, Wis. Stats., NR 447 Wis. Adm. Code

DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

01/27/2020

DATE FINALIZED

02/19/2020

DNR CERTIFICATION

I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.

Signature

Date