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HABITAT RESTORATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



## DECONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

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**Demolition contractors take pride in their work and we really need their help protecting our natural resources.** Demolition doesn't touch the Earth gently. Standard techniques traditionally utilize heavy equipment, creating high impacts which may be unacceptable in sensitive areas. **Deconstruction** incorporates planning and controlled, low impact strategies and techniques which may reduce resource area impacts.

Controlling site access minimizes impact. Designate a clearly marked access corridor to the site for all activity.

Native vegetation in the corridor area is a resource that can be removed and replanted. This can significantly reduce job completion re-vegetation costs.

**Carefully remove the vegetation using equipment with a smooth blade.** Soil should be removed to a depth equal to the branch height of small bushes. Heel in this vegetation as soon as possible to protect the roots. Ground cover; bushes and small saplings can be successfully transplanted, using this rapid heel-in strategy.





Prior to actual de-construction, confirm removal of household materials (liquids, furniture, appliances, carpets, paints and fuels) to minimize unexpected clean up. Wood bracing and small equipment can be delivered by crane.

As soon as the building is gone, foundations and pilings can be removed. Walls may need ball demolition, with bucket removal for debris. In difficult cases, the crane may need to lift a small excavator in to assist in piling removal to avoid stressing the crane boom.



### **De-construction: careful planning and integration of protocols.**

Deconstruction uses planning to reduce direct impacts in areas considered too sensitive for heavy equipment demolition, such as near eroding coastal banks or habitats containing endangered species of plants or animals. Deconstruction may use reverse engineering assessments to determine the feasibility of sectional removal. Deconstruction advocates using a crane to remove segments off site. The crane is used to remove the structure as a whole, or in reverse-engineered components. The components are moved to a less sensitive adjacent site, for demolition or reuse. This technique minimizes direct demolition debris impacts on sensitive sites and minimizes equipment time on site.

De-construction can also reduce environmental impacts by planned re-allocation of de-constructed materials. Significant cost reductions are possible through waste stream reduction. Primary recycling designates materials for re-construction or fuel source. A secondary recycling tub grinds demolition materials as a component for mulching groundcover. Concrete, bricks and asphalt can be crushed for re-use in roadways, walkways and drainage projects.



Following job completion, elevations should be reconnected with compatible sand or soil mix and re-vegetated with native vegetation. Re-using heeled in native vegetation maintains the indigenous pH, nutrient levels, microorganism and micro invertebrate communities the plants require.

**Conservation Commissions will require a written protocol**, including: specific techniques; sequencing; Erosion Control plan indicating location, design, materials, installation and maintenance; restoration of grade elevations with compatible particle size and mix; Re-vegetation plan establishing matching soil horizon profiles; use of indigenous compost and mulch; planting and or seeding with indigenous vegetation; designated areas for access corridor; limit of work for demolition site; worker parking; worker toilet; equipment storage and demolition materials storage.

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