

Construction Site Waste Planning Guide

A phase-by-phase container plan that keeps the site clean and the invoice matching the bid. ·
Recommended size: 20–40 yard

Planning timeline

Pre-slab: Stage the first can before framing packages land

Framing: Lumber offcuts and sheathing scrap — steady volume

Dry-in: First swap usually lands here: roofing scrap and wrap

Drywall/mechanical: The big wave — a 30 earns its keep

Finish/punch: Fresh 20 for packaging and trim scrap; final pull at CO

Safety reminders

- Post the can's material type — one sign prevents mixed-load charges
- Keep the loading side clear of material staging
- No burning scrap on site — the can is faster and legal
- Designate one person to call swaps before the pile starts

Dumpster sizing

A 20 or 30-yard on site from day one, swapped by phase. Drywall stage alone justifies the 30; punch-out often finishes on a fresh 20.

Tips from the pros

- Call swaps by morning — swapped by afternoon is the standard
- Break down packaging as it lands, not at the end
- C&D; rides flat-rate only if the can stays C&D; — police the lunch trash
- Multi-lot builders: one account runs every site

Recycling suggestions

- Clean lumber offcuts: crews and neighbors take them fast
- Cardboard packaging: flatten; volume recycling saves can space
- Metal banding and cutoffs: scrap value, dump fee waived

Common mistakes to avoid

- Waiting until the pile blocks the drive to order the first can
- Letting subs treat the C&D; can as a trash can
- Under-sizing drywall stage every single time
- Placing the can where the crane needs to sit next week

Project notes
