



“Construction and Demolition Waste in India”

Collective inputs from over 245,000+ Citizens on

“Swachh Bharat”

(Current State, Issues, Root Causes and Proposed Solutions)

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Construction and Demolition Waste in India

Executive Summary

With rapid urbanization the quantum of construction & demolition waste (C&D Waste) is constantly increasing. While it is estimated that the construction industry in India generates about 10-12 million tons of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste annually, efforts to manage and utilize this waste is very little. This has led to Private contractors utilising unscientific dumping methods there-by putting severe pressure on scarce urban land as well as reducing life spans of landfills

The 245,000+ strong “Swachh Bharat” online community has come together to collectively identify the key issues, root causes and solutions for Construction and Demolition Waste in India and the community expects that the Government will work with urban local bodies towards implementing the identified solutions.

Issues identified:

1. In most cities, there is no permanent site for C&D waste collection
2. Many times, C&D waste is dumped on open roads and outside sites
3. The wastes generates huge air pollution and also makes the areas dirty
4. This turns into a garbage dump in a few days
5. Open canals are choked with C&D waste material dumped in
6. C&D waste blocks roads and pathways making commuting difficult
7. Waste material is not cleared for days causing problems for neighbours
8. These materials are carried in open vehicles which drops debris on the way
9. This waste leads to collection of water during rains
10. Municipality does not pay much attention to this issue even after complaints

Root Causes Identified:

1. This has never been an area of priority for the Government
2. Lack of vigilance by municipal departments
3. Lack of a concrete law for disposing construction and demolition waste
4. No strict mandate for vehicles carrying the c & d waste
5. People are unaware of what to do with this waste
6. No fines for offenders
7. People caught discarding construction waste on the roads are let off easily

8. No helpline to complaint about this problem
9. Too much corruption in the regulating authorities
10. No way of recycling the construction waste
11. Clear C&D waste disposal guidelines not issued to builders by municipalities

Solutions Identified:

1. Municipal Corporations, Municipalities/Panchayats should frame Rules & Regulations for C&D Waste
2. Civic Bodies should provide a facility for collection and disposal of C&D waste and charge a reasonable amount for the same
3. Civic Bodies can also charge builders/contractors who are willing to buy C&D waste for construction purposes
4. A collection center should be established and managed by the municipality for construction and demolition waste in each town/ village
5. A separate department in the municipal bodies should be created for addressing the issue of collecting and disposal of this waste
6. C & D recycling units should be set up in every town and state
7. Civic Bodies can recycle/reuse C&D Waste for filling of low lying areas and construction of Roads etc.
8. A law pronouncing the disposal of C & D waste should be made
9. C&D permit grants must have terms for removal of waste
10. Severe penalties must be imposed if waste removal guidelines are violated
11. Awareness among the builders and contractors should be increased
12. Private entities setting up C & D recycling units should be given tax breaks
13. Demolition permit itself can have a clause for waste recycling

Construction and Demolition Waste in India –A few Citizen quotes:

1. There should be a proper dumping yard for waste construction materials which can be recycled and sold for other uses, this way the yard where materials are dumped can be self-paying – **Kishore Menon**
2. A construction code should be brought in all over the country to regulate damage to the environment and health hazards caused due to indiscriminate disposal of C&D waste – **Rajat Bhattacharjee**
3. Make it mandatory that everyone carries/has a Indian id card, property card, vehicle card which must be renewed every 3 years or a year without which access to Government facilities are denied. The fine (with official commission for collectors) on defaulters on waste disposal, traffic violations etc. can be pinned. Make jails payable with work or money for the rent and food – **Mithran**

4. If demolition is done in a proper manner, the material obtained can be reused. For example, bricks, door frames, doors etc. can be reused. It just takes a little more effort, but that saves a lot of material and money – **Pallavi Nath**
5. Municipal corporation must take responsibility in removing and dumping construction and demolition waste at proper place every week and charge the residents annually or special funds must be provided .At present no one is taking responsibility at present – **M Trivedi**
6. As all waste can be recycled, this C&D waste can also be recycled for use in making tank bunds, roads and even for construction. What is the opinion of our Government engineers and researchers in construction industry? – **S. Turuvekere**
7. Recycling the C&D Waste seems to be the best solution. Why the authorities have not spent time till now on this alternative is a question that needs thinking. If some compensation is fixed for offering C&D Waste for recycling rather than thinking of imposing fines, the issue would gain momentum and solve itself in a lesser period of time – **Vijaykumar**
8. Demolition waste is a problem which very many of us face. What is required is that the Municipality when informed by any citizen should visit the place and stop all sanctions till such time the waste is removed. Further the garbage disposal should be done on regular basis and the garbage bins should be in large plastic containers having wheels so that disposal to the truck is simpler – **S. R. Venkatesan**
9. The whole waste management system in India is disorganizes. For a specific waste, a specific guideline must be prepared scientifically by Municipal Agencies/Urban Development Department of Government and should be readily available to the people concerned. Different types of waste should be segregated before their disposal – **Ashok Das**
10. In foreign countries, the concrete waste is broken up into small gravel and reused as base rock under roads or under paved backyards. There is a recycling center that collects the demolition waste for a fee. They send it for crushing it and resell it as base rock. Roads usually have 2 or more inches of compressed base rock under them. This way our roads will not have pot holes. This has to be strictly enforced. There should be increased police patrol and a heavy fine for littering. That will be the only way this will be stopped – **Alka Sehgal**