

Plasterboard Recycling Service

**Effective waste
management**

Simple solutions to minimise waste



Effective waste management is a priority for British Gypsum. From initial design to on-site testing, through to manufacturing and installation – we’ve always believed that effective waste management makes good environmental and good business sense.

A unique approach

As a manufacturing company, we help build the environments that are an essential part of everyday life – from schools to hospitals, businesses to homes. Minimising the effects construction projects have on the environment is an important part of our activities. We believe the most effective way to encourage best practice, is to make the building process sustainable for business and sustainable for the environment.

Our commitment

Over many years, we have committed significant time and resources to ensure we achieve high standards of environmental sustainability – to the point where we now recycle over 96% of the waste produced from our own manufacturing process. The remaining elements are also disposed of via responsible routes, such as animal bedding and soil conditioning. A programme of external activity, helping the construction industry reduce its impact on the environment, has also been implemented to match our internal commitment.

New guidance on the disposal of gypsum

As part of The Landfill Directive, the Environment Agency previously allowed construction waste that contained small amounts of gypsum (the main constituent of plasterboard) to be sent to landfill. This was known as the 10% rule.

On April 1st 2009, the 10% guidance was removed governing the disposal of gypsum. Gypsum, the main raw material for plasterboard, is a sulphate but is classified as non-hazardous. Under the new regulations, waste containing gypsum can no longer be mixed with biodegradable waste at a standard landfill site. This change in regulation applies to waste containing identifiable gypsum-based materials, such as plasterboard, thermal laminates, glass reinforced gypsum (GRG), plasters, cove and ceiling tiles.

If a container of gypsum is sent to landfill, it must now be deposited in a separate Monocell. There are currently relatively few Monocells in the UK designed to take high sulphate wastes such as gypsum, and so use of this disposal route is likely to lead to higher costs for construction firms.



The Environment Agency is now advising producers of gypsum waste to:

Eliminate waste before it enters construction sites.

Reduce the amount of waste produced to an absolute minimum.

Reuse off-cuts of plasterboard or surplus raw materials.

Recycle and re-process waste that is not suitable for immediate reuse.

Dispose of any waste that cannot be reused or recycled responsibly and only use landfill as a last resort.

British Gypsum is here to help

We're on-hand to help you meet the new guidance requirements in the most cost effective way possible – by designing products that minimise waste, and by recycling plasterboard waste quickly and efficiently.

'We've developed our Plasterboard Recycling Service to help housebuilders and contractors manage and reduce their waste – helping them to reduce costs and increase savings'

Mark Snowden

Plasterboard Recycling Manager

British Gypsum Plasterboard Recycling Service



Our plasterboard recycling service is based on the principles of simplicity and reliability. We are the only plasterboard manufacturer in the UK with dedicated plasterboard recycling facilities at our manufacturing sites, and our service continues to expand year-on-year.

A simple cost-effective solution

British Gypsum has developed a cost-effective process to take back and recycle plasterboard waste. Crucially, this process has been designed from the builder's perspective, to minimise processing time and maximise simplicity.

Flexible and reliable

Depending on your preference, we'll provide you with bags, dump bins or skips to house your waste – and collect them from your building site at times that are convenient for you. The process is flexible and reliable, and can be scaled up or down to suit any construction project.

Reporting and long term learning benefits

We also provide comprehensive feedback on the waste we recycle. Our system records the total tonnage of waste for a project, the average weight per bag or skip, along with other factors – allowing you to see the financial savings compared to less environmentally sound options.

What can British Gypsum recycle?

The number of bags and skips we supply can be tailored to accommodate changes in the amount of waste produced during a construction project. Our recycling service has been designed to handle a wide range of gypsum waste, including:

- ✓ All plasterboard including, thermal laminate and DUPLEX grade board
- ✓ Cove
- ✓ Gypsum based ceiling tiles
- ✓ Glass reinforced gypsum (GRG) products
- ✓ Rigidur
- ✓ Artex decorative plaster mouldings

Whether you're planning a new project, or if you're on-site already, a simple phone call is all it takes to start the process. Call our dedicated Plasterboard Recycling Service Team and we'll make it easy to make the switch.



‘British Gypsum design products that use materials efficiently, to help minimise the waste we produce on site – whatever waste that can’t be designed out of the process, they pick-up and recycle. It’s that simple.’

Chris Pointon
Senior Site Manager,
Crest Nicholson

It’s easy to register your site

Your British Gypsum representative can register your site for the Plasterboard Recycling Service. Alternatively, you can contact the Plasterboard Recycling Service Team direct and register your site over the phone – one call is all it takes.

Delivering containers and picking up recyclable material

Every construction site is allocated a Unique Site Reference Number. This will allow you to order bags and skips according to the needs of individual sites, and monitor the amount of waste each site produces.

We guarantee to deliver your recycling bags and skips to site within three working days. The recycling bags have an average capacity of 250kg and skips are available in various sizes. We can also cater for any transport restrictions you may have on site with a range of pick-up vehicles.

For further information contact the PRS Customer Service Team on 0800 633 50 40

The recycling process

On-site waste is taken through our unique recycling process. This has been designed to help reduce the time your employees need to spend handling plasterboard waste – ensuring a smooth, cost-efficient service.



1

Plasterboard waste produced on your construction site is stored in dedicated waste bags, dump bins or skips supplied by British Gypsum.



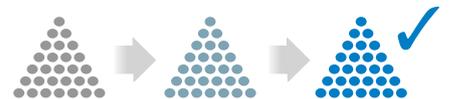
6

We'll also send you a detailed analysis of the waste you have produced – allowing you to assess the performance of each of your sites.



5

The approved raw material is used to make a variety of products at our dedicated manufacturing plants – ready to be delivered to construction projects around the country.



4

The gypsum core is blended with natural gypsum or DSG*. The resulting raw material is then tested for quality before re-entering the manufacturing process.



2

We'll collect your plasterboard waste direct from your building site – and keep track of the waste produced by each site.



3

The gypsum core is then separated from the paper lining and any other waste materials – ready for recycling.

Using material to its maximum potential

We'll always create products and systems that use materials efficiently without compromising quality – ensuring on-site waste is kept to a minimum. Research has shown that reducing waste at the design stage can benefit every construction project – minimising the initial cost of materials, saving time during installation, and curtailing the cost of waste disposal.



Case Study: Innovative door system reduces waste by 50%

Traditionally, an industry standard double boarded door opening could waste up to 8m² of plasterboard.

To reduce this waste, British Gypsum has developed an innovative new detailing for its GypWall metal stud partitions – potentially reducing plasterboard waste by around 50%. The new details are based on standard studwork, and do not require any additional components or special boards – keeping costs down for the contractor and reducing stock requirements on site.

* De-sulphur Gypsum (DSG) or synthetic gypsum is produced at coal-fired power stations in a process known as *desulphurisation*.



Our additional services are designed to help you meet your project deadlines and legal obligations with ease. From one-off bespoke products to major project implementation, Waste Management Plans to final waste disposal – we’re here at every stage of the building process.

Sharing best practice

New regulations, and the drive to increase efficiency, mean that sharing best practice is crucial to the success of the construction industry. With the help of British Gypsum, the application of improved building techniques has resulted in significant success for many construction firms.

Project life-cycle support

Our support team is always on-hand to help you identify efficiencies and maximise your savings.

We’re happy to engage at any point. Whether it’s in the planning, implementation or construction of a project – with our comprehensive knowledge base we can share techniques that result in projects finishing on time and on budget.

Waste life-cycle support

We can help calculate the true cost of waste to your project – finding ways to reduce it at every stage of the building process. Official statistics show that around 90 million tonnes of construction, demolition and excavation waste is generated annually in England, with 25 million tonnes of this ending up in landfill* – a significant percentage of this waste could be ‘designed out’ with improved planning.

Bespoke products

Unusual and one-off projects often provide the biggest challenges to the building industry, where specific design or regulatory requirements demand a unique approach.

British Gypsum offers an increasing number of specialist solutions, designed to satisfy demanding performance criteria or non-standard applications. Our Drywall Academy is available to assist specifiers and designers to achieve their aims.

If you require enhanced fire protection, acoustic modelling, or have specific aesthetic requirements, or if you need to meet challenging environmental factors, or scheduling restrictions, we can deliver the products and knowledge that make the difference.

* *Strategy for Sustainable Construction* June 2008



Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs)

SWMPs are a legal requirement for all construction projects costing over £300,000. Plans must incorporate an appropriate and licensed waste management contractor, whilst monitoring and reporting on resources used, and tracking the quantity of waste generated.

We are able to demonstrate a complete audit trail on your behalf, fulfilling your compliance obligations and duty of care for the transportation, storage and recovery of plasterboard waste.

Working directly with you

British Gypsum is ideally placed to help you meet your legal requirements. We can completely remove and recycle your plasterboard waste, and can provide a comprehensive data management system – allowing you to track waste project by project, on an ongoing basis.

Our straightforward approach is designed to reduce the cost of waste management, and ease the implementation of your statutory environmental obligations.

‘Disposing of our plasterboard waste has never been easier. British Gypsum provide the empty containers and collect them when they’re full. Their reporting system also tracks our progress and feeds back valuable data – helping us meet our legal obligations and sustainability objectives.’

Stuart Jessop
Shepherd Construction

Resources

Plasterboard Recycling Service DVD

The short DVD enclosed opposite illustrates the full closed-loop process of our Plasterboard Recycling Service. From customer collection, through to cleansing and processing, followed by the return of recycled material to the manufacturing cycle. Running time is five minutes.

Waste Management Calculator

The Waste Management Calculator opposite, demonstrates the amount of plasterboard waste (in tonnes) a construction project can be expected to produce. The calculation is based on percentages of expected waste, ranging from 5% to 25%.

Contacts

Plasterboard Recycling Service Centre

The dedicated Plasterboard Recycling Service Team are available to help you set up new accounts, order additional services and answer questions about our Plasterboard Recycling Service.

T 0800 633 50 40

E bgprs@bpb.com

Technical Advice

British Gypsum's Drywall Academy Technical Advice Centre are on hand at every stage of the project, from initial design, to installation and waste recovery.

T 0844 800 1991

F 0844 561 8816

E bgtechnical.enquiries@bpb.com

Waste Management

Our Plasterboard Recycling Manager is available to answer any questions you might have about our Plasterboard Recycling Service.

T 0800 633 50 40

E bgprs@saint-gobain.com



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The information in this document is for guidance only and should not be read in isolation. Users should read and familiarise themselves with all the information contained in this document and ensure that they are fully conversant with the products and systems being used, before subsequent specification or installation.

For a comprehensive and up-to-date library of information visit the British Gypsum website at: www.british-gypsum.com

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