



About the new San Francisco C&D debris law

The new law updates Environment Code Chapter 14 – the Construction and Demolition Debris Recovery Ordinance (Ordinance) – and Public Works Code Section 725 to add requirements for transporters and processing facilities of mixed C&D debris (i.e., debris not separated by material type for direct reuse/recycling) that originates from San Francisco. The new law also updates the C&D debris recovery requirements that apply to full demolition projects. The law’s new requirements are effective January 1, 2022, unless otherwise noted.

Benefits of the new San Francisco C&D debris law

In San Francisco, C&D debris comprises about one-half of all solid waste generated and one-quarter of all material disposed (150,000 tons per year). The C&D debris that does not go through a recovery process ends up illegally disposed or at illegal dumping sites. The Ordinance will:

- Enhance enforcement and increase compliance with the Ordinance, which will level the playing field by decreasing the ability of non-compliant haulers to undercut compliant haulers/contractors during competitive bidding for jobs.
- Create a healthier community and environment by increasing C&D debris recovery while reducing illegal dumping and illegal disposal.
- Help San Francisco meet its Zero Waste and Climate goals.

C&D debris transporter requirements

- Transporters must obtain either an annual or a temporary 7-day permit for each vehicle, vehicle towing a trailer, or debris box that is used to transport mixed C&D debris generated in San Francisco.
- Permits for vehicles transporting mixed C&D debris are available in four tiers, with increasing permit fee levels, based on the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Weight Code of the vehicle that will be used for the transport. See Table A for details.
- Permits are required for each debris box that is used to transport mixed C&D debris generated in San Francisco, regardless of whether the debris box will be placed on private property or in the public right of way (e.g., City streets and sidewalks). See Table B for details. These C&D debris box permits will replace the previous debris box permits from San Francisco Public Works.
- Permits are not transferable between or among transporters or between or among vehicles, but may be transferred between debris boxes operated by the same transporter company.
- Transporters do not need to obtain permits for vehicles or debris boxes that will exclusively transport source-separated material directly to recycling markets.
- Transporters will submit a C&D vehicle and debris box permit application to the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) and pay the permit fee online or by check. The permit application is available at SFEnvironment.org/construction-demolition-requirements.



TABLE A: C&D DEBRIS VEHICLE PERMITS AND PERMIT FEES

Vehicle Permit Type	CA DMV Weight Code	Annual Permit Fee	7-Day Temporary Permit Fee	Date Permits Required
Tier 1	No weight code	\$395	\$175	July 1, 2022
Tier 2	A, B, C, D, E	\$1,200	\$300	January 1, 2022
Tier 3	F, G, H, I, J	\$1,600	\$400	January 1, 2022
Tier 4	K, L, M, N	\$2,000	\$500	January 1, 2022

TABLE B: C&D DEBRIS BOX PERMITS AND PERMIT FEES

Permit Type	Annual Permit Fee	7-Day Temporary Permit Fee	Date Permits Required
Debris Boxes	\$795	\$200	January 1, 2022

Note: Permit fees may be adjusted annually based on changes to the Consumer Price Index

C&D debris processing facility requirements

- Processing facilities that are registered with SFE to accept mixed C&D debris generated in San Francisco (Registered Facilities) must use certified scales integrated with an automated record-keeping system to weigh each incoming load of mixed C&D debris and all outgoing materials. Registered Facilities that were registered as of October 24, 2021, are exempt from this certified scale requirement if, since that date:
 - The Registered Facility has not received any record-keeping violations from the San Francisco Department of Public Health; and
 - SFE has not documented any record-keeping deficiencies by the Registered Facility that prevents the Registered Facility from meeting reporting requirements.
- Registered Facilities can accept mixed C&D debris generated in San Francisco only from transporters that have a valid C&D debris vehicle or debris box permit, except under the condition below.
- If a Registered Facility determines a transporter does not have a valid C&D vehicle or debris box permit, the Registered Facility may accept mixed C&D debris from that transporter for up to 30 days provided that the Registered Facility informs the transporter of the permit requirement and notifies SFE within 10 days of the unpermitted transporter company name and/or license plate by emailing DebrisRecovery@sfgov.org.

Full Demolition project C&D debris recovery requirements

- A full demolition project must submit a Material Reduction and Recovery Plan to SFE that diverts at least 75 percent of C&D debris generated by that project away from landfill ("Recovery Rate") when applying for a demolition permit from the Department of Building Inspection.
- Within 30 days of completion, a full demolition project must submit documentation to SFE verifying the actual Recovery Rate of the C&D debris generated by that project.

For more information, please visit SFEnvironment.org/construction-demolition-requirements, email DebrisRecovery@sfgov.org or call 415-355-3799.



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Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Recovery Ordinance Update

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