

RECLAIMING OUR PAST



RECLAIMED LUMBER

Reclaimed lumber is wood taken for re-use. Most reclaimed lumber comes from timbers and decking rescued from old barns, factories and warehouses although some companies use wood from less traditional structures such as boxcars, coal mines and wine barrels.

Reclaimed or antique lumber is used primarily for decoration and home building and is often used for siding, architectural details, cabinetry, furniture and flooring.

CAN YOU IMAGINE



THE INDUSTRY

The reclaimed lumber industry gained momentum in the early 1980s on the West Coast when large-scale reuse of softwoods began. The industry grew due to a growing concern for environmental impact as well as declining quality in new lumber. On the East Coast, industry pioneers began selling reclaimed wood in the early 1970s but the industry stayed mostly small until the 1990s as waste disposal increased and deconstruction became the more economically savvy alternative to demolition.

A PLACE TO COME TOGETHER



Not just a recycle but an up-cycle

LEED

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the USGBC's benchmark for designing, building and operating green buildings. To become certified, projects must first meet the prerequisites designated by the USGBC then earn a certain number of credits within the six categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials & resources, indoor environmental quality, innovation & design process. Using reclaimed wood can earn credits towards achieving LEED project certification. Because reclaimed wood is considered recycled content, it meets the Materials & Resources criteria for LEED certification and because some reclaimed lumber products are FSC certified, they can qualify for LEED credits under the “certified wood” category.

THINGS TO CONSIDER



Not only is tearing down an old barn reducing a potential safety hazard and what could be construed as an eye sore. It allows for a land owner to make some money for an unused piece of property, as well as allow for its wood to be recycled to a product of equal use, but it allows for the product to be up cycled to become tables, dressers, entertainment units and even high end ceiling finishes

RECYCLE

ABLE TO TURN THIS

TO THIS



UP CYCLE

TURNING THIS



INTO THIS



UP CYCLE

TURNING THIS



INTO THIS



DRAWBACKS

With reclaimed material being so popular, it is becoming more difficult to source.

With such a high demand, some sellers try to pass newer wood off as antique.

It is also common (although not necessarily done intentionally) for species to be misidentified because it is difficult to tell the difference in older material unless it is cut open and examined, leaving the material less desirable.

Reclaimed lumber is typically more expensive than new lumber primarily due to expenses associated with dismantling, sorting, and preparing the wood.

Reclaimed lumber sometimes has pieces of metal embedded in it, such as broken off nails, so planing it can often ruin planer blades. Nail compatible saw blades are advisable for the same reason, plus safety.

Many sources of reclaimed wood cannot verify what the wood might have been treated with over its lifetime. This uncertainty leads to fears of harmful off gassing of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) associated with lead paint or various stains and treatments that may have been used on the wood. These fears are particularly pressing when the wood is for an interior application.