

Roof Recycling Procedures

PVC Roof Tear-off Guidelines

The roof removal recommendations presented here are meant to be guidelines only and not an exhaustive list of all steps required to safely remove a PVC roof and prepare for shipment to a recycler. Manufacturer or specifier requirements or local conditions may dictate modification of these guidelines.

The steps outlined here were developed from contractor experience. With proper planning and execution, experience has shown that there is very little labor differential between tearing off to be thrown away versus packaging for recycling.

- From the beginning of the project, a quality pallet or a box that can withstand the weather/transport needs to be set aside and marked for recycling membrane.
- 10' pallets may be cut to 5' for accommodating material handling.
- Under ideal conditions, pallets can hold up to 1,500 lbs (3,500 ft²).
- Old roofing membrane is to be free from foreign matter (stones, trash, excessive insulation etc.).
- When starting the tear-off process, the crew members cut the membrane along the welded seam.
- The membrane can then be gathered in one of two methods depending on manufacturer instructions:
 - Rolled up as tightly as possible and tack welded
 - Or, folded in a ribbon style manner as tightly as is practical in lengths of 30 feet to 50 feet.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Do not include welded seams with fasteners.
- Once the fasteners are exposed, the crew members can remove the fasteners and plates – These can be recycled as well and can be easily collected in buckets.
- After the fasteners are removed, the next section of membrane can be cut from the roof and the process is repeated. Even small scraps can be gathered up.
- Metal or Braided Strapping will be needed for banding the materials to the pallet for transport.
- Extra labor is not required in the process. Rather than throw the membrane into the dumpster, they are placed on the pallets.
- Samples of the old roof may be needed to ascertain its composition prior to determining the recycler. Please coordinate with the manufacturer to determine where to send any samples.
- Arranging for removal from the site varies by manufacturer and job size. In some cases, the manufacturer will arrange for the material to be picked up at the site. Check with the roof manufacturer to determine the proper procedure.