



# DRYWALL DISPATCH

NEWS FROM **USA GYPSUM**, YOUR DRYWALL RECYCLING RESOURCE

[www.usagypsum.com](http://www.usagypsum.com)



## BROWNFIELD PROJECT A SUCCESS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

The most recent addition to Wyomissing is the Wyomissing Square Project, a four-story, commercial, retail and residential district. The Bozzuto Group and several other organizations teamed together to remediate an old industrial brownfield site into the Wyomissing Square complex, not only beautifying the land but also creating hundreds of jobs. This new complex houses 248 apartment units, 31,000 SF of retail space, 60,000 SF of office space, and a 135-room Marriott Courtyard hotel.

One issue with new construction is the large amount of waste that is created in the process. Drywall in landfills is an ever increasing problem, emitting hydrogen sulfide which gives off a distinct rotten eggs smell. Not only does drywall in landfills create a horrible odor, but sulfate is released from the gypsum, contaminating any groundwater it touches.

The solution to this problem is recycling drywall from construction sites. The Wyomissing Square Project installed 29,000 sheets of drywall, equivalent to 1,462 tons. During construction, 270 tons of drywall was removed from the site. If Bozzuto would have disposed of the drywall into a landfill it would have cost \$17,555.

USA Gypsum was able to work closely with Machine Drywall Ltd., the drywall contractor on site, to provide a solution to their drywall waste. USA Gypsum provided the job site with laborers to remove the scrap drywall from the site and recycle it into a beneficial agricultural soil product. Not only did USA Gypsum manage to keep 270 tons of environmentally dangerous drywall out of landfills, they also saved Bozzuto 33% in removal costs. A total of \$8,105 was saved by recycling the drywall with USA Gypsum instead of throwing it in landfills.

From March through July, USA Gypsum made 66 different visits to gather loads of drywall to see that every scrap piece was removed from the site. This project was a win-win for all involved members; Bozzuto saved thousands of dollars, USA Gypsum created beneficial agricultural products, Machine Drywall Ltd. saved money on labor costs and the landfills are less full. Machine Drywall Ltd. was highly satisfied with the outcome of the partnership they created with USA Gypsum and has already contracted with them for drywall recycling at upcoming projects.



## USA GYPSUM 100% DIFFERENCE

Unlike many other recycling companies, USA Gypsum offers 100% recycling of the drywall waste removed from your construction site. Why is this good for you? When USA Gypsum takes 270 tons of drywall from your site, you can count all 270 tons towards your LEED points, instead of a smaller percentage such as other companies offer. Don't make the mistake of getting less than 100%!

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## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT HIGH CONSTRUCTION AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PARTNERSHIP

Back in 2002, when being green was called environmentally friendly, a partnership was created. In order to save money and help the environment, High Construction Company and USA Gypsum began recycling drywall from High Construction's job sites instead of sending all of the scrap material to the landfill. Drywall in landfill causes several problems from contamination of the ground water supply to releasing hydrogen sulfide, a gas with an awful stench and health risks.

High Construction is part of a local, family-owned business that has operated for more than 75 years. Their longevity is a testament to their commitment to establishing long-term sustainable partnerships and relationships; and to their company's adaptability and growth. USA Gypsum provides scrap drywall recycling services to the manufactured housing and construction industries, turning the recycled drywall into gypsum products. This partnership was a perfect fit from the beginning.

High Construction has worked with USA Gypsum in a mutually beneficial relationship since 2002, on several notable projects, including Hilton Garden Inn – Wilkes-Barre; Homewood Suites – Valley Forge; Orchard

Ridge Apartments in Pottstown, Pa.; LA Fitness in Wyomissing, Pa.; Pennsylvania Turpike's Allentown Service Plaza; Lancaster County Convention Center and Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square; Courtyard by Marriott – Wyomissing.

During the construction of the Wyomissing Courtyard, USA Gypsum was able to remove 161,200 pounds of drywall, saving High Construction 40% in removal fees. This win-win relationship

has enabled High Construction to clean up and dispose of drywall waste from job sites in an environmentally friendly manner—and at a reduced cost, compared to sending it to a landfill—while enabling USA Gypsum to recycle the drywall scrap for other uses.

High Construction has several LEED accredited professionals on staff, experienced in working with customers to develop and meet sustainable or LEED building requirements. "We're seeing more and more recycling on projects, and more owners are requesting it," says Deron Henise, director of estimating for High Construction. USA Gypsum complies with LEED Green building rating system reporting and offers 100% recycling, meaning High Construction can count all of the tons removed from a site towards their LEED certification instead of only a fraction of it.

"Our superintendents chose to work with USA Gypsum because of their recycling efforts and the attention that they apply to every job," says Kevin Miduri, vice president of field operations for High Construction. "They do a great job of removing the waste materials in a timely fashion, as scheduled. USA Gypsum accommodates our project schedules and will work off hours so that the removal does not interfere with construction. They offer flexible waste removal options to meet the needs of the job, including supplying dumpsters onsite for drywall trash, or using their truck and providing manpower to haul the material away."

As for the future, High Construction states that it "will continue to use USA Gypsum when the situation warrants." USA Gypsum and High Construction will continue to do their part for the environment and save money as they do it.





## NEW UK STUDY FOCUSES ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DRYWALL IN LANDFILLS

A recent study was conducted by WRAP, a UK-based organization that focuses on reducing waste and recycling more, making better use of resources, and helping to tackle climate change. "The study sought to establish the potential environmental impact, or benefit, of reducing the conventional gypsum content of drywall by increasing the incorporation of post-consumer recycled gypsum from waste drywall. The verdict was that drywall in landfills is another culprit of greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental impacts such as global warming and resource depletion were found when drywall is disposed of in landfills.

When plasterboard, aka drywall, is disposed of in landfills, it negatively affects the environment. Drywall is composed of gypsum which, when wet and in an environment that lacks oxygen and contains organic matter such as a landfill, causes sulfate to seep out of the material and dissolve into the water. If this sulfate reaches groundwater, contamination occurs.

A more noticeable issue with drywall in landfills is the conversion of dissolved sulfate to hydrogen sulfide. When hydrogen sulfide is emitted from the gypsum underground, the gas is released

into the air and produces a smell much like the smell of rotting eggs. This smell can be detected for miles even when drywall is deep in the ground. Not only does the hydrogen sulfide smell, it also irritates the eyes, nose, and throat and can cause nausea, fatigue, shortness of breath and chest pain. In high enough doses this gas is even lethal!

Unfortunately, this problem does not have an easy fix. The possible treatment process is cumbersome and expensive and is not going to

occur any time soon. With this being said, it is obvious that we must redirect drywall away from landfills and into more viable,



environmentally friendly options. Currently only 6% of drywall waste is being recycled in the Mid-Atlantic States. Construction and demolition debris makes up 25-45% of North American waste. As WRAP's new study points out, the excess amount of drywall in landfills is causing an environmental issue.

USA Gypsum has the solution to this problem. They work at construction sites to remove drywall for the owner and recycle it into beneficial agricultural products. USA Gypsum creates gypsum products from disposed drywall which can be used as a soil aerator for farms, lawns, or gardens. Not only does the environment benefit from this process, construction managers do as well. USA Gypsum can save construction projects up to 40% in disposal fees! This solution is a win-win all around. With the knowledge we have now about the effects drywall in landfills has on the environment, plus knowing that recycling can save money, there is no reason why this problem can't be resolved.



Discover USA Gypsum online and enter to **win a \$500 Lowe's gift card** for your next project at [www.usagypsum.com/promotion.aspx](http://www.usagypsum.com/promotion.aspx)