

“Anything that curtails productivity on a construction site is going to bring challenges. The answer to this problem is selection of the optimum location(s) on site and ease of access to the bins, clear signage and good communication of expectations on a regular basis.”

Although awareness of environmental issues is increasing, you need to go further to change the norm and encourage people not to take the easy way out.

“.. you need to have a champion on every site; someone who leads by example and helps demonstrate to others how simple it is to comply with the plan. You also need to be repetitive and consistent in the messaging.”

Naylor Love want to share what they are doing, to inspire other building companies to look at things differently and help to pave the way for the industry as a whole.

“Getting the wider industry following the same path and using similar practices so that there is consistency for subcontractors working across multiple project for different head contractors; that would really be the dream.”

As the construction industry evolves to comply with the set governance goals of being waste free, Naylor Love has an accredited NZQA course for Resource Sorters – Construction, to help the industry reach zero waste by 2040. This course is being independently facilitated throughout New Zealand.

Want to find out how you can implement some of these strategies in your construction or demolition projects?

Matt Meehan, Senior Quantity Surveyor, Naylor Love

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WASTE MINIMISATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION INDUSTRY

CASE STUDY – NAYLOR LOVE, BUILDING
THE OTAGO POLYTECHNIC TRADES
TRAINING CENTRE



DUNEDIN | kaunihera
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o
Ōtepoti



Construction company Naylor Love has recognised its obligation to future generations to minimise its impact on the environment and has committed to making changes to foster a cleaner, more sustainable world. The company is taking the lead on sustainable construction practices and hoping to inspire other companies to act in similar ways.

It's all about looking at things from a different perspective and seeing opportunities in what might previously have been seen as too difficult.

Naylor Love has incorporated a mandatory requirement for all of its work sites to have a Site Waste Management Plan in place. Site Waste Management Plans will be required under proposed changes to the Building Act, so Naylor Love is taking a lead and hopes other companies get on board before the legislative change.

"In the near future, with the ever-increasing cost per tonne of disposing of construction waste to landfill it will become uneconomical not to have robust waste minimisation and recycling procedures in place and we want to be ahead of this to remain competitive."

Matt Meehan, Senior Quantity Surveyor, Naylor Love

On site sorting and separation of waste means that most materials can be completely diverted from landfill. The waste partner for the project, Waste Management Ltd, weighs each skip and provides regular reports of tonnage against each type of waste.

"A skip costs the same to collect, drop off and transport to landfill regardless of the way it has been filled. A significant percentage of the volume in a 9m³ skip on its way to landfill is air. By sorting out our waste on site and treating it as a resource, the skips that actually do have to go to landfill are used more economically as we eliminate the type of items that make air in a skip."

Some materials can be re-used on site; for example, plastic tarps from timber components can be re-used as weather protection for the exposed end grains; polystyrene insulation can be used as lay-downs for structural timber being craned onto upper floors.

Other 'waste' resources can be recycled into a variety of useful products. For example, offcuts of plastic pipework are returned to the manufacturer for recycling; polystyrene and plasterboard are recycled into other products; thermal insulation can be recycled as insulation for any project; and metal off cuts go to local scrap merchants.

The company is reaching out to local community groups that have a use for untreated timber offcuts, which would otherwise go to landfill. Suppliers and subcontractors are also being encouraged to take their packaging away and ask themselves the same questions about how to avoid waste altogether.

Changing attitudes and challenging the ingrained culture of waste can be hard work, but there are also huge benefits for the company, and for individuals, once a different approach has become established. Naylor Love introduced regular 'tool box talks' on site, aimed at enhancing environmental awareness and educating the construction teams on an ongoing basis.

"What we have learnt from past projects is that implementing waste avoidance strategies takes an investment of time and effort. At the outset there is always some push-back and it takes work to get buy in."

