

Feature **Deconstructing New England ReUse**



Chris Kling at his CNC (computer-controlled machining) and indexer table

Question: When is the sum of the parts AS great as the whole?

*Answer: When you use deconstructed materials from **New England ReUse!***

From time to time we at Recycle-News-Haven like to take a deep dive into the life of materials. But the current feature is as much about a man and his passion as it is about wood. So let's take a mini-tour through the facility, the materials contained therein, and yes, even the mindset of the person behind it all...

I've been meaning to visit New England Reuse for awhile now, and am very glad I finally did. I went with the idea in mind that I could find another resource for waste diversion, in the form of 'used' wood. As you may be aware, the New Haven Transfer Station does not have provisions for recycling or diverting wood from the waste stream. Part of the mission of the New Haven Solid Waste Authority (which oversees and operates the Transfer Station) is to make people aware of the benefits of waste diversion when it comes to the environment, conserving natural resources, and yes, even to the wallet! I was hoping that not only could I inform our readers of this particular resource, but also encourage them to use it. Well I definitely can make that recommendation, but I discovered much more once I entered the building and had the opportunity to talk with the owner, Chris Kling.

The basics/background:

Chris Kling owner/operator, **New England ReUse**, 400 Sackett Pt. Rd., North Haven
Originally on Meadow St. in Branford until 2013
Moved to current location in 2015, consisting of
16,000 square feet (plenty of parking and loading area too!)

The genesis of the concept:

Chris was a general contractor doing demolitions and some construction, beginning in 1977. Sometime in the 1980's a client requested that he only use deconstructed or "used" wood on a construction project. During the process he had an epiphany: He realized he had never viewed demolition as a renewable source of material. Soon, ALL he wanted to do was deconstruct, recondition and reuse or upcycle wood!

Along the way, Chris learned how woods were historically used, and acquired a vast knowledge of best practices for their restoration and reuse. He has come to have a great respect for the trees that provide said wood, and the craftsmen who originally transformed it. He speaks in almost reverent tones about sustainability, not just in wood, but in general. He is currently partnering with his colleague David Wright on just such a project involving design for living structures (I was sworn to secrecy regarding the details). He also believes in the sustainability of the human spirit, and is partnering with EmergeCT which gives people who have been incarcerated a path to reintegration, training and employing them on his work sites at very attractive wages.

The process:

1. Finding properties that can be partially or wholly bought and 'deconstructed' for reuse or upcycling. In some States, such as California, a certain substantial percentage of each demoed property has to be re-used.
2. Assessing the property for valuation of parts. Disassembling (with care!)
3. Transporting
4. Categorizing and sorting at the facility and restoring if necessary:
5. Steam-stripping, conditioning, curing, drying etc.
6. Upcycling for special projects on spec
7. constructing buildings and structures on location
8. Distribution of replacement parts that were common to certain periods of architecture. (an e.g.: cornices on victorian houses, made from historically 'appropriate' deconstructed wood)

The knowledge and experience:

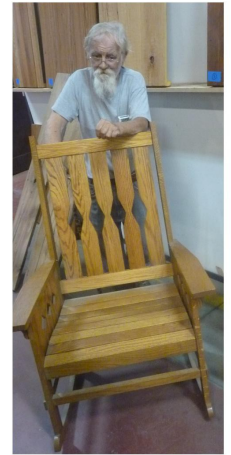
Chris definitely knows his woods! Cherry, fir, *old* fir, various pines sap-heavy woods (which act like a natural form of pressure-treated wood, and can last a hundred years!) Laminates (including some of the first ever made!) and even beam cover materials. Here's how much I know on this subject: I asked

about cedar (one of my favorites – maybe because of its fragrance) and I was met with silence! I gathered that it is not a great wood to work with.

My observations:

I did not notice ONE warped or otherwise compromised plank, beam or board... AND there was plenty of material! And although there was plenty of material, it was well organized by type of wood and nature of use, easy to inspect and there was plenty of room to view it from all angles.

I also noticed Chris's particular passion for being creative. Yes, one can always go to an antique store or a used furniture outlet, but why not create something unique from foundational materials! Chris pointed us to a couple of things that he actually made himself from reused wood – just because he can! (see pic to the right)



His workshop, which includes, a CNC and indexer, and all the tools necessary to make finished products, is capable of producing great detail and conformance to specifications. Also in residence: A large steam table. (He doesn't use chemicals to get rid of lacquer and other finishes – so neither the wood nor your lungs are compromised).

So how can you take part in this process and benefit on a personal level as well?

If you are a general contractor, you can do the right thing and donate good construction wood from properties that you have demoed, and architectural/ornamental wood as well, *and* save the money that it would cost you to dispose of such items at the Transfer Station.

If you are a home-owner looking for vintage wood for flooring, paneling and structural support, or just looking for furniture for your place, you can come to the facility on 400 Sackett Point Rd. in North Haven and browse.

If you are interested in having a custom-built structure on your property, constructed with recycled vintage wood, you can have New England reuse do it for you.

If you wish to upcycle some wood and create your own item or art object, you can certainly select from the huge stock in-house – or even work with Chris and have him help you with design and construction. (Interestingly, Chris noted that used furniture wasn't as popular with customers as was the dismantled wood from that same furniture!)

If you own a house or a building on a property that is scheduled for demolition, stop and think: “Hey, I remember there is a guy that might want to assess my property for possible deconstruction, and maybe buy and remove certain items!” Getting in touch with that “guy” could end up allaying some of the costs of demolition as well as foster sustainability.

But no matter whether you are a consumer or contractor, remember that when you participate in some way in the deconstruction process, not only is used wood and in particular, selected 'vintage' wood a good choice for increasing waste diversion, it is often the better choice for value, strength, durability, and historical context. *And* it is beautiful!

For more information:
<https://www.nereuse.us/>

Dep't. Where shall I Put This?

Where to bring certain items not acceptable at the Transfer Station:

Valley Sand and Gravel, North Haven – **aggregate, concrete, stone, soil**
<https://www.valleysandct.com/index.php>
400 North Frontage Rd, North Haven
[\(203\)467-6328](tel:(203)467-6328)

Modern Materials, State St., Hamden – **aggregate, concrete, stone, soil**
<https://www.modernmaterialscorp.com/recycling/>
2895 State Street, Hamden
[\(203\) 287-5424](tel:(203)287-5424)

Notes: separate your material prior to dropping off!
Building materials not accepted

HazWaste Central, New Haven – **household hazardous waste**
<https://www.rwater.com/hazwaste/>
pre-registration form:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4613d9ef414440e7ab522a22cc23fb26>
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven
[203-401-2712](tel:203-401-2712)

Don Stevens Tire Co. in Southington, (860) 621-3256 - **tires**
<https://www.donsteventirecompany.com/>
60 Curtiss St., Southington
860-621-3256

Grillo Services, Milford – **grass clippings and mulch**
<https://www.grilloservices.com/hours-and-directions/>
1183 Oronoque Road, Milford
860-590-4528

Lowe's, New Haven - – **propane tanks (15-20 lbs)**

https://www.lowes.com/store/CT-New-Haven/0593?cm_mmc=lod-_-c-_-lcl-_-awr-_-yxt-_-go-_-593-_-na-_-0-_-0&y_source=1_MTE4Mjc5OS03MTUtbG9jYXRpb24ud2Vic2l0ZQ%3D%3D

115 Foxon Blvd. (Rte. 80), New Haven

(203) 468-3068

Chase Waste Material Corporation, New Haven – **vehicle batteries**

<https://www.chasewaste.com/>

250 Middletown Ave, New Haven

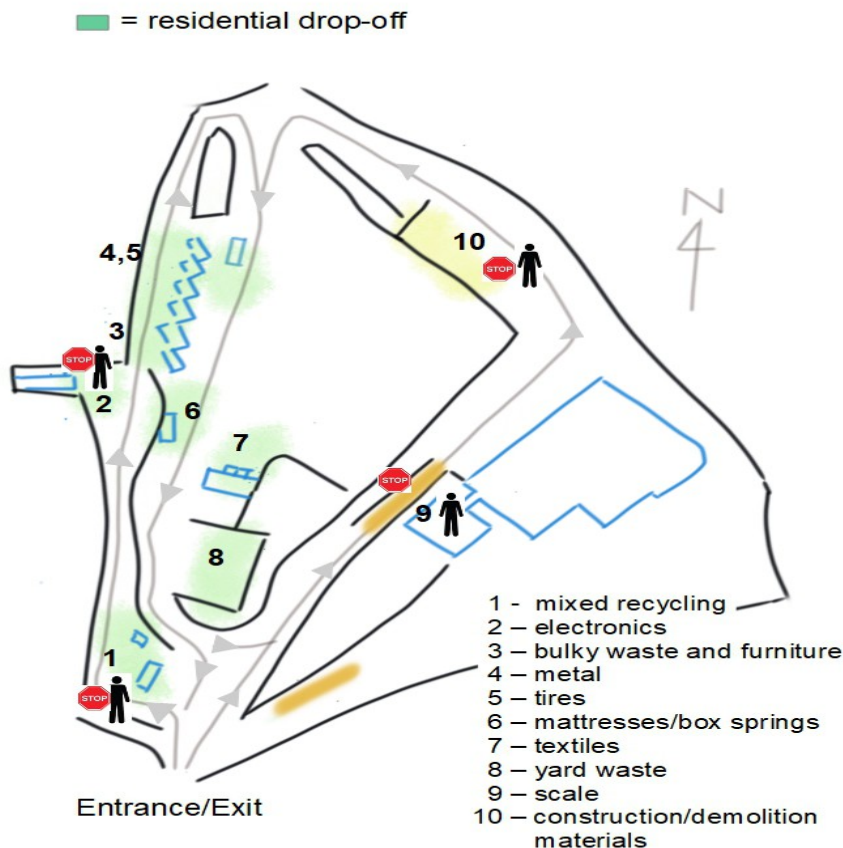
203-787-5981



Feature A Thumbnail Guide to the New Haven Transfer Station

Reprinted from Recycle-News-Haven December 2023 issue

Make your experience easier: Check out this map and key before (and during) your trip to the Transfer Station.



Thumbnail Guide (cont'd)

Key to the map:

1. Mixed Recycling (a/k/a single stream or curbside recycling) *Note: Please stop here for the Gate attendant who will check your coupons and direct you.*

Mixed Recycling is the material that usually goes in your blue bin. But if you missed your recycling day, or have too much recycling over the holidays, come on down and drop it off here. The small container (dumpster) is for cardboard (no foam or plastic), and the large multi-compartment container is for all of your other mixed recyclables.

2. Electronics *Note: Please stop here so the Residential Drop-off attendant can take your coupons and direct you to the proper locations for your material.*

All Covered Electronic Devices (CED) collected by our electronics recycling contractor may be deposited here for recycling. No coupon is needed for any of these items. [Acceptable items](#) include TV's monitors, computers, wires, printers.

3. Bulky waste and furniture

This includes items around your house (think: garage, attic, storage room) that are not otherwise recyclable at the transfer station, as long as they are not considered demolition or construction material. Important: NO FOOD, PARTIAL FOOD GARBAGE, OR PUTRESCIBLE WASTE is allowed. In that case, you will have to arrange pickup of that waste with your garbage hauler or keep it tightly sealed until your next pick up

4. Metal

Anything that is 'mostly metal' can be dropped here. The Residential Drop-off attendant will help you figure out what is acceptable. No coupon is needed.

5. Tires

Without rims only. No oversized tires. 4 tires per year per household!

6. Mattresses and Box Springs

Mattresses and box springs must be in reasonable shape and be dry, and mildew-free. NO bedbugs! No coupon is needed.

7. Textiles

Textiles means clothing, apparel accessories (handbags, belts, etc.), linens, bedding, and yes, even stuffed toys! All items must be mildew-free and dry, but can be torn or otherwise damaged. Please put them in plastic bags no larger than kitchen-size (30 gallon) or they will not fit in the containers. Do NOT leave items or bags on the ground. No coupons are needed.

8. Yard Waste

Branches, brush and leaves are acceptable here. No stumps, or branches larger than 6 inches around. (Coupons are not accepted for these items and the customer is responsible for the cost of disposal). If you have these, they will be weighed at the scale. Please be mindful that yard waste does not mean “anything from your yard.” Note: Grass clippings, mulch and dirt are not accepted at the Transfer Station and should not be brought under any circumstances.

9. Scale *Note: once on the scale you must STOP, put the vehicle in park, exit the vehicle and proceed to the scale-house window to start your transaction. Once you have dropped your materials, you must return to the scale to finish the transaction and pay the disposal charges. When you have your receipt, you should exit the facility.*

The scale must be used (which means you must *pay*) when you have demolition and/or construction materials. Most credit and debit cards are accepted. Cash is also accepted; however it must be for the exact amount of the transaction. We do not make change. Generally, anything that is ripped out of your house (including bathroom and kitchen cabinets and wall-to-wall rugs) are considered demolition. Also, as mentioned in #8, branches over 6” around must go over the scale.

10. Construction and Demolition materials disposal

Once you have gone over the scale for the first time, proceed to this area to drop off waste. Please watch for instructions from the equipment operators in that area. When you are done dropping off your debris, follow the route and arrows back around to the re-weigh line, where you will rejoin the scale line. *Note: this is a very busy intersection so be prepared to follow the Gatekeeper's directions concerning incoming trucks.*

Dep't Leftovers?

Did you find yourself waking up to these items after celebrating on the 4th?

unexploded fireworks – call local fire dep't. or police for proper disposal.

propane tanks – take back to any local distributor (e.g. Lowes in New Haven)

piles of paper plates, plastic cups and flatware – Unfortunately, most of these items are not recyclable, you can, however, place single-use plastic cups in your recycling bin.

Calendar of Events:

National Clean Beaches Week – July 1-7

<http://www.cleanbeaches.com/events.html>

City of New Haven meeting schedule:

<https://newhaven-ct.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

New Haven Parks and Public Works info:

A Message from Parks and Public Works Resident Services:

This is the perfect time of the year to properly clean your trash and recycling totes. Use a disinfectant or all-purpose cleaner to saturate both the inside and outside of the toter. Adding a bit of baking soda can help get rid of odors. Please call our office at (203) 946-7700 if your toter needs to be repaired. We can easily put a new lid on it, replace tires, and put in a new metal bar if needed.

Bulky items such as furniture, mattresses, toys, clothing, and tires *cannot* be placed on the treeline for pickup. This is considered illegal dumping and you may be subject to a fine. New Haven residents with a valid CT state driver's license, or ID can stop by our office at 34 Middletown Ave to pick up free vouchers. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 7am-4pm. Once you have the vouchers, you can take yard waste and/or regular household items to the Residential Drop-off Center. Construction materials will be charged 6 cents per pound. The Residential Drop-off Center is located at 260 Middletown Ave and their hours are Monday-Saturday 9am-noon.

Leaf bag pick up continues. Rocks, dirt and outdoor trash cannot be placed inside the brown leaf bags. Leaves should only be in brown paper bags. Please do not overfill the brown bags to make pick up easier and more efficient. Leaves placed in plastic yard waste bags will not be picked up. Place the leaf bags curbside the night before your weekly trash and recycling pick up.

In observance of Independence Day, our office at 34 Middletown Ave will be closed Tuesday, July 4. The Residential Drop-Off center located at 260 Middletown Ave will also be closed. Weekly trash and recycling pick-up will be a day delayed.

Links:

New Haven Public Works-

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/pw/>

Public Works paving schedule-

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/15028/637903861608081376>

See Click Fix-

<https://seeclickfix.com/new-haven>

NHSWRA contact info and link:



14 Trumbull Street, Suite 102

New Haven, CT 06511

Office: 203.691.5374

Fax: 203.691.5990

www.nhswra.com

info@nhswra.com

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