Gypsum Drywall Recycling in Massachusetts

Regulation vs Reality

USA Gypsum™
Drywall Recycling

Beneficial Reuse Management

CDRA

Construction & Demolition Recycling Association

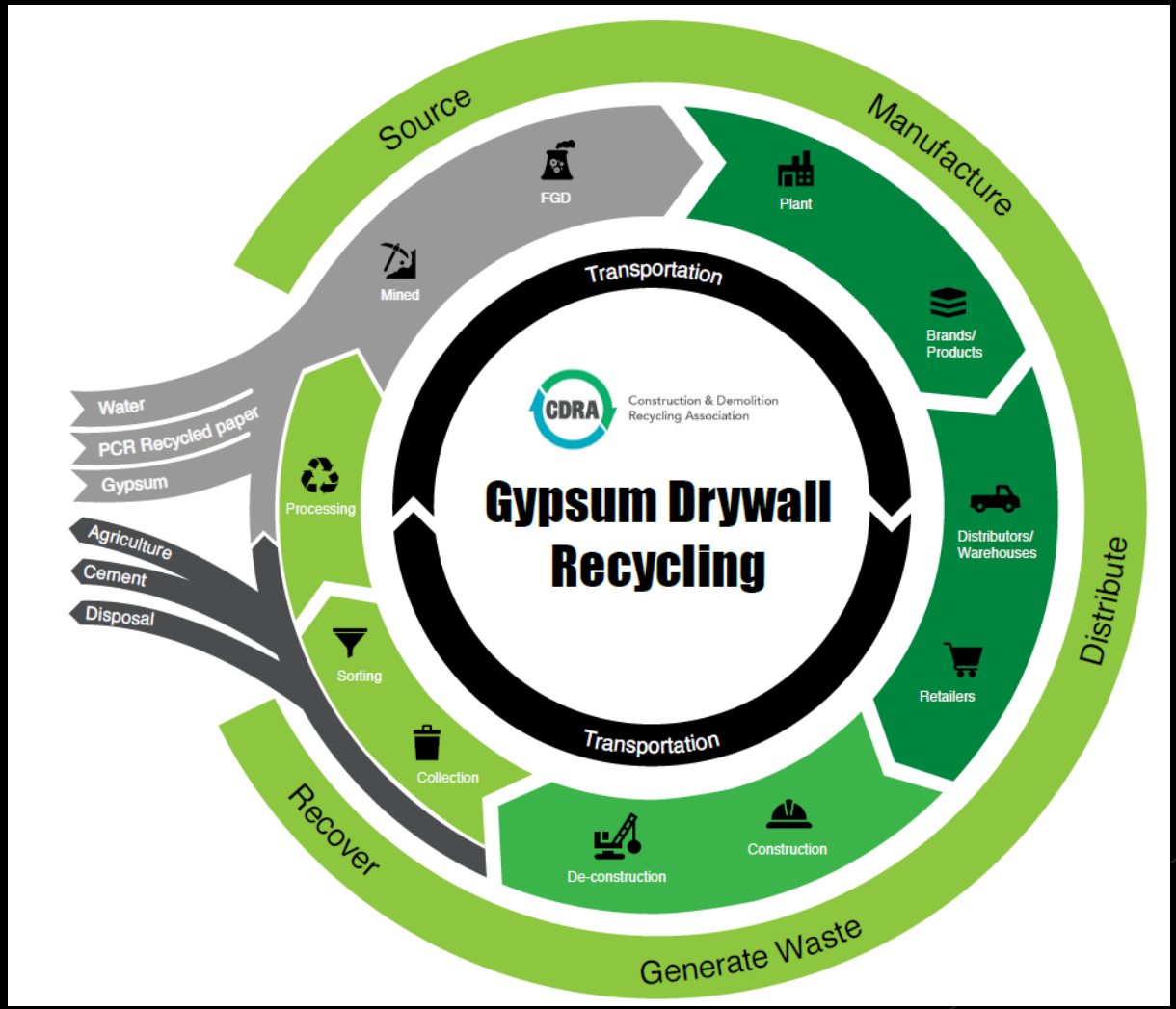
National leadership in C&D recycling.

2026 CDRA CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW

Register now!
Jan 27-29 2026
Tampa, Florida

CDRA Drywall Recycling Committee

Collaboration of stakeholders



Why we are here
The MA Mandate vs market outcomes

- Why recovery is low
- Why Mixed C&D cannot recover drywall
- Changes to move the needle
- End markets support higher recovery

MA Gypsum Drywall Waste Ban
MASSDEP 2013

1. Loads that include clean gypsum wallboard must be sorted, to the extent it can be done safely, to remove clean gypsum wallboard to the greatest extent possible prior to any mechanical processing of the C&D waste load.

2. Facilities will not be allowed to transfer (including transfer to another C&D Handling Facility) mixed C&D waste loads that contain clean gypsum wallboard without first safely separating the clean gypsum wallboard for recycling.

3. In order to be eligible to receive mixed C&D waste loads, a C&D handling facility must implement operating procedures to safely and effectively separate clean gypsum wallboard prior to transferring or processing C&D loads.

Regulation vs Reality - *Actual performance*

- 40-90,000 tons are landfilled
- 2,000 ton recycled
- 2-4% recovery rate
- Compliance gap +/- 95%

End Markets & Capacity Exist for all 40-90k tons

- Cement, agriculture and closed loop provide strong stable markets
- Processing capacity exists
- The problem is not demand but, collection

Market drivers Aligned

Recycling is not

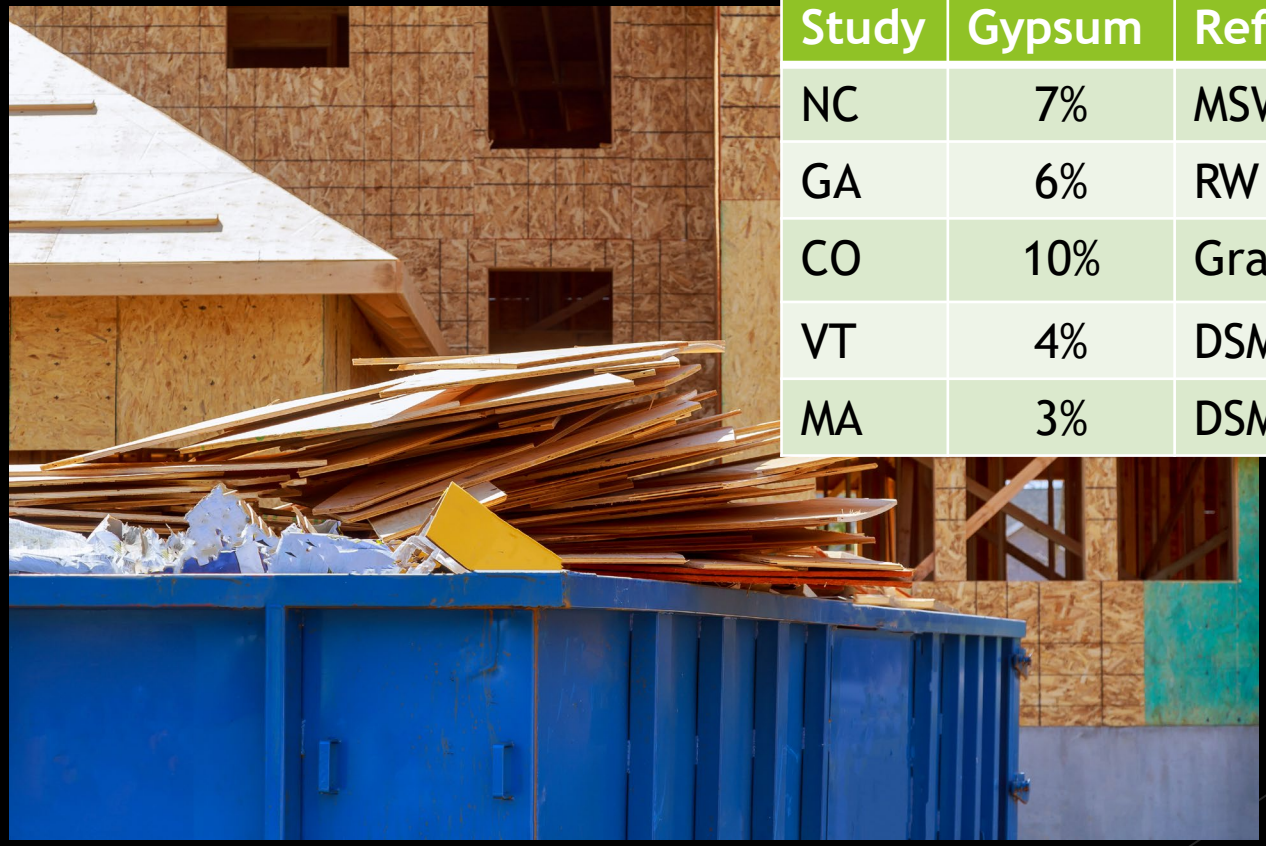
- Gypsum cost
- Disposal cost
- Landfill H2S, gas & leachate management

852,000 tons of Drywall shipped to New England

State	Population	%	Tons board	Waste 15%
CT	3,626,205	24	204,205	30,631
MA	6,981,974	46	393,180	58,977
ME	1,385,340	9	78,014	11,702
NH	1,395,231	9	78,571	11,786
RI	1,093,734	7	61,592	9,239
VT	647,064	4	36,439	5,466
Total	15,129,548	100	852,000	127,800

Source USGS 2024

Mixed C&D Waste Composition
6% gypsum average



Study	Gypsum	Ref.
NC	7%	MSW C 2008
GA	6%	RW B 2008
CO	10%	Grace 2009
VT	4%	DSM 2013
MA	3%	DSM 2017

Cutting through the data clutter

My estimate

- 1,500,000 ton mixed C&D waste
- 3% clean = 45,000 ton
- 6% gypsum = 90,000 ton
- Recycled 2,000
- Recovery 2.2 - 4.4%
- Regardless of whose number you prefer, the recovery rate remains below 5%.

Types of Gypsum Drywall

100% Recyclable

- Regular & type X (86%)
- Gypsum core
- Paper facing
- Moisture not important

Not Recyclable

- Demolition
- Painted
- Specialty board

Mixed C&D Processing

Mixed C&D lines are engineered for throughput. Once drywall enters this system it becomes unrecoverable

Drywall entering process lines will not be recovered

- Grapples, Pre-crushers & screens crush drywall
- Drywall cannot be picked from processing lines
- Unrecoverable once mixed-waste processing begins

This is why drywall must be separated *before* entering mixed C&D systems

So where does process gypsum waste go?

This is where 95% of MA drywall ends up today

General Contractors own the waste

- **Drywall separation in bid specs**
- **Dedicated gypsum containers**
- **Instruct subs on scrap handling**

Improving Recovery Rates

- Source Separation

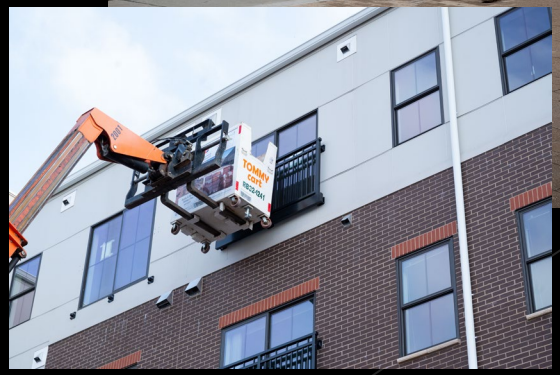
  or

- Positive Picked on tip floor

Recovery is only possible before drywall reaches process equipment

Source Separation Innovation

One touch systems



Take aways

- MA has separation requirement
- End markets & processing exist
- Mixed C&D Lines cannot recover
- Upstream separation needed

USA Gypsum

- Proven processing Capacity
- Proven end market
- 27 years

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