

RENOVATE AND EXTEND THE LIFETIME OF MATERIALS



Maintain, repair, improve to keep in place.

Priority should be given to this action, because its implementation requires the least resources!



Reuse for the same use

Action which, if feasible, involves the disassembly of the element to then relocate it elsewhere. It may also need to be repaired, repainted and maintained.



Transform create a new, different element based on the existing element

Action demanding more energy. It will require some imagination, time and possibly the addition of other materials. Part of the initial element may be cut, unused and will become waste.



Sorting centre

At the sorting centre, the elements are decomposed by material, and then sent to **recycling** chains, to **incineration** plants with heat recovery or, as a last resort, to a **landfill** centre.



OLD WOODEN WINDOW

Maintain

Regular cleaning and painting when necessary, will preserve the frame during many years! Placing a joint to reinforce the airtightness and replacing single glazing by double glazing can significantly improve the thermal performances of the frame. If a part is damaged, wood graft is possible.

Reuse

There are second-hand sites, specialized resellers, giveaway fairs ... which offer the possibility of reusing the frames.

Transform

Ideas: indoor glass partition, greenhouse, garden shed, furniture door...

Sorting centre

Painted wood is incinerated in 85% of cases and recycled in 15% of cases.

The glass will be recycled into pane, bottle, windscreen or glass wool. If it is not pure enough, it will be crushed and mixed with other rubble to serve in the road foundations, or it will be buried because it is incombustible.

WINDOWSILL IN STONE

Maintain

The stone is cleaned by using a brush and water. Plugging the cracks with mineral mortar will avoid water stagnation, which can cause the stone to burst when it freezes. When there's a large crack in an angle or an edge, a specialist is able to perform a graft.

Reuse

The stone can be re-cut and adapted to serve elsewhere. It can be resold because it has a market value.

Sorting centre

At the sorting centre, it is quite likely that the sill is crushed for use in road foundations or concrete production. It's a pity, because the extraction of blue stone blocks from quarries becomes scarce and expensive.

NAILED FLOOR IN SOLID WOOD

Maintain

Sanding a solid wood floor will refurbish it. To retain the possibility of recycling it afterwards, it must be treated with a hard oil or a wax, rather than with a varnish or a stain.

Reuse

With a little skill, a nailed floor can be disassembled. It can be re-installed as an exposed floor or as a support for another floor cover.

The market value depends on the type of wood (fir is of little value, oak and chestnut are much more worth).

Transform

Ideas: furniture, inside sheeting... concrete formwork, intended to remain exposed...

Sorting centre

An untreated floor is considered recyclable. Currently, in 75% of cases, it will be recycled in chipboard or MDF. IN 25% of cases, it will be incinerated.

CAST IRON RADIATOR

Maintain

Sometimes a lick of paint and a new thermostatic valve are enough to refresh the cast iron radiators.

INFO: Cast iron radiators can be used with condensing boilers because they are often oversized, so they will function well at low temperatures.

Reuse

It is possible to dismantle a cast iron radiator and replace it elsewhere or resell it (its aesthetic and heritage value are interesting!).

INFO: Some companies offer full maintenance: removal, cleaning and stripping, internal bleeding and leak testing, rustproof paint and exterior powder coating.

Sorting centre

At the sorting centre, the radiators will go into the metal container. They will then be recast and upgraded in the production of new cast iron products, or in the industry requiring coke.

CEMENT TILES

Maintain

Cement tiles are wiped clean with a little warm water and mild soap. Acid products and bleach should be avoided. If the joints are in poor condition, they must be repaired to ensure the longevity of the tiles.

Treatment with an oil-based protection is not recommended as it absorbs dirt, but if necessary, a caustic wax can be used.

INFO: If a tile is missing or cracked, get information at the second-hand resellers.

Reuse

The rather thick tiles, placed on a bed of sand and filled with lime mortar (hardly hard) can be removed without too much breakage, even if it requires some dexterity. These tiles can be reused elsewhere or easily resold (the first date from 1870 and have a heritage value!).

INFO: When reassembling, consider reusing the original technique with a lime mortar: if the tiles are placed on a cement screed and filled with hard adhesive mortar, it becomes very difficult to disassemble them without breakage.

Sorting centre

At the sorting centre, the tiles and the mortar will end with the « inert waste », which is a pity because they still have value! They will be crushed into aggregates for the roadbed of road foundations.

OLD PORCELAIN WASHBASIN

Maintain

There is a way to eliminate almost all the stains on tiled washbasins and taps with simple products (vinegar, lemon, bicarbonate, white clay...). Avoid too abrasive products.

In case of splinters, it is possible to carry out punctual repairs using a repair product and porcelain paint.

INFO: For greater comfort, it is of course possible to replace the taps and add hot water pipes.

Reuse

It is entirely possible to reuse the washbasin elsewhere in the building, to resell it (second-hand sites or resellers). It is relatively simple to dismantle this type of washbasin, which is attached.

INFO: Don't forget to recover the tap and the evacuation accessories which are also reusable.

Sorting centre

In this case, it's really about « downcycling ». At the sorting centre, the metallic elements will be placed in a metal container, but the washbasin will end with the « inert wastes », and will be crushed and used as an aggregate for the making of concretes.