

## CSR Gyprock™ take-back scheme for gypsum board product

### Introduction

CSR Gyprock™ has been developing a gypsum board take-back scheme over the last five years and now has a gypsum board waste take-back scheme in operation for offcuts and demolition material.

The scheme is being introduced progressively across Australia and is designed to help building contractors minimise plasterboard waste and recycle offcuts during construction. Upon completion of gypsum board installation, the fixing contractor simply leaves all offcut plasterboard material to be recycled just inside the boundary for collection. The fixing contractor arranges collection directly with CSR Gyprock™'s recycling contractor who charges the builder the appropriate fee (depending, for example, on quantity or weight). After collection, the material is guaranteed to be 100 per cent fully recycled.

The CSR Gyprock™ Recycling Service provides builders with important benefits: it helps to ensure that council regulations for recycling building materials are always adhered to; the removal of offcut plasterboard improves occupational health and safety on site; and the collection saves builders time and money.

What started as an experiment in Sydney has been formalised and is becoming an integral part of CSR Gyprock™'s service supply chain.

### Use of recycled and re-used material

1400 tonnes of waste product per year is taken back from construction sites, saving the disposal to landfill of offcuts produced during construction.

Gyprock™ plasterboard is manufactured from gypsum, paper and a small amount of additives. Gypsum is a naturally occurring sedimentary rock. It is non-toxic and is also used as a food additive and agricultural soil improver. The liner board used is primarily recycled newspaper and cartons. The additives are benign materials such as starch and foam. The offcuts and waste collected are fed back directly into the production process.

### Drivers and benefits

Drivers:

- Reduction in raw material use
- Saving disposal to landfill
- Corporate social responsibility
- Improvement of business offering

Benefits:

- The CSR Gyprock™ Recycling Service reduces the cost of site clean-up and landfill fees.
- Better on-site resource management produces cleaner, safer, sites. Government authorities are increasingly insisting on better waste management practices.
- Home-buyers prefer to use builders who recycle and use products with low environmental impact.



### Problems and challenges

Contamination of plasterboard material can make material unrecyclable. Only new clean Gyprock™ plasterboard waste can be accepted. Non-acceptable materials include vinyl-covered panels, non-plasterboard ceiling panels, metal components or fixings, fibre cement, mixing boards with set cement, demolition waste, timber, chemicals, plastic, packaging, paper or general building waste and rubbish.

Rain-dampened plasterboard can be accepted if clean.

### Solutions

To meet stringent quality standards, CSR has trained and employed selected contractors who understand Gyprock™'s requirements.

### Opportunities for other projects

If plasterboard material can be separated from demolition waste there is an opportunity for greater recycling.

### Contacts and links

CSR Gyprock website:

<http://www.gyprock.com.au/>

CSR Gyprock Recycling Service Case Study:

<http://www.gyprock.com.au/resources/gyprock™-recycling-service.aspx>

Taylor Woodrow case study from UK:

[http://www.article13.com/A13\\_ContentList.asp?strAction=GetPublication&PNID=1358](http://www.article13.com/A13_ContentList.asp?strAction=GetPublication&PNID=1358)

### Consultation

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