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In today's society, recycling is an important part of our everyday life. In the construction industry, recent interest in recycling has been driven largely by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system.

The LEED rating system promotes the use of materials with high levels of recycled content and rewards recycling capability with LEED points.

Steel and aluminum products coated with Valspar coatings are 100% recyclable. See back page on how this can help contribute to earn LEED points.

What is recycled content?

Recycled content is a measure of how much recycled material is contained in a finished product. You may be surprised to learn that steel is the world's, as well as North America's most recycled material. In the US alone, almost 83 million tons of steel were recycled or exported for recycling in 2007. The North American steel industry has been recycling steel scrap for over 170 years.

What is the recycled content of steel and aluminum?

Metal building components are composed of recycled material. Steel's recycling rate is about 2/3 according to the American Iron and Steel Institute. About 1/3 of the aluminum used in the US comes from recycled material according to the US Aluminum Association.

For online steel and aluminum recycling resources, go to:
<http://www.recycle-steel.org/> or <http://www.aisc.org/>

**LEED is a registered trademark of the US Green Building Council*



Recycled Content and Recycling Capability of Steel and Aluminum

LEED-2009 For New Construction and Major Renovations

MR Credit 2: Construction Waste Management 1–2 Points

Intent

To divert construction and demolition debris from disposal in landfills and incineration facilities. Redirect recyclable recovered resources back to the manufacturing process and reusable materials to appropriate sites.

Requirements

Recycle and/or salvage nonhazardous construction and demolition debris. Develop and implement a construction waste management plan that, at a minimum, identifies the materials to be diverted from disposal and whether the materials will be sorted on-site or commingled. Excavated soil and land-clearing debris do not contribute to this credit. Calculations can be done by weight or volume, but must be consistent throughout. The minimum percentage debris to be recycled or salvaged for each point threshold is as follows:

Recycled or Salvages	Points	Recycled or Salvages	Points
50%	1	75%	2

MR Credit 4: Recycled Content 1–2 Points

Intent

To increase demand for building products that incorporate recycled content materials, thereby reducing impacts resulting from extraction and processing of virgin materials.

Requirements

Use materials with recycled content such that the sum of postconsumer recycled content plus 1/2 of the preconsumer content constitutes at least 10% or 20%, based on cost, of the total value of the materials in the project.

The minimum percentage materials recycled for each point threshold is as follows:

Recycled or Salvages	Points	Recycled or Salvages	Points
10%	1	20%	2

The recycled content value of a material assembly is determined by weight. The recycled fraction of the assembly is then multiplied by the cost of assembly to determine the recycled content value. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing components and specialty items such as elevators cannot be included in this calculation. Include only materials permanently installed in the project.

For the entire MR Credit 2 and MR Credit 4 document go to the following website:

<http://usgbc.org/>

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