

water air handler” comes on and produces warm air, just not as dry as that from a standard furnace. Heat is produced with the efficiency of the tankless system and has little effect on the amount of hot water available for domestic use. Tankless systems can also be used in hydronic heating situations as replacement for old, inefficient boiler systems. The efficiency of radiant floor or hydronic baseboard systems is greatly increased over a standard boiler. In many cases, space heat and domestic hot water can be integrated into one unit. If solar or geothermal is used as a pre-heat source, the savings can be tremendous.

Considerations before going tankless:

Hot water lag time: Because the tankless system has to heat water when you ask it to, and depending on where you install the tankless unit, you may have to wait a few seconds for the hot water to get to your tap. This problem can be overcome by installing a recirculation system. Also, tankless systems require a minimum flow to activate them, which means you may not be able to “trickle” water in the sink and still get hot water.

Chose your contractor wisely: Contractors are sometimes resistant to installing systems they are not familiar with. If you are ready to go tankless be sure to do your homework first, and find a contractor who will work with you (preferably one who has experience installing tankless units). Consider consulting with the CRC’s contractor referral network to find a tankless installer.



Integrated forced air space heat and domestic hot water system.



Units can be installed in tandem to increase hot water supply.

**Do Your Part For Our Planet
And Save Money At The Same Time!**

- Save thousands of gallons of water per year
- Save thousands of pounds of CO2 emissions
- Save hundreds of dollars on natural gas

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Mention this ad and receive FREE installation of your Metlund D'Mand recirculation system (a \$250 value) with purchase of any tankless water heater.



Stylish & Sustainable

Create Beautiful Landscapes with Used Materials

By McCaren Avalon

The time for sunlight on bare skin is upon us. As you bring your garden and yard back to life this spring, challenge yourself to think consciously about what your plan calls for and decide what, if any, brand new materials need to be bought. For every project, there are a dozen alternatives that can save money, time, resources, and earn you style points. From flea markets and thrift stores to yard sales and reclaimed building material stores, a little imagination and willingness to think outside of the box can go a long way.

Re Use It!

Spend some time examining the materials you already have to determine if they are reusable for your outdoor project. Organize a community swap sale and trade materials you no longer need for something you will actually use. Spring is the perfect time to get rid of unwanted stuff- you will feel

lighter, happier, and very generous.

If you don't already own it and can't swap for it, then shop at local reuse building material stores first before buying new. In addition to low cost supplies for your home, you can often find unique items that will set your home apart from the neighbors.

Buying from and donating to reuse facilities allows you to maintain your commitment to the earth by buying responsibly: It's guilt free.

Get Creative

- Stylize your backyard by creating mosaics on planter boxes, garden pots, or a table top for outdoor meals.
- Collect colorful tile, glass, ceramic pots, old plates, buttons, and sea shells to use in your design.
- Footpaths are transformed when using antique heating vents to lead your guests around the foliage.
- For vines, roses, or vegetables that need a little lift, hang decorative wrought iron fencing behind them and watch them climb.
- Add a splash of color by painting images of your favorite flowers on wood sash windows and hang them against a fence.
- Want more space to plant vegetables but that slope in your yard prevents it? Transform it into a level plateau by building a retaining wall made from concrete block, flagstone, railroad ties or landscape ties.
- Create a new spot for tea or meditation by laying down a small patio, tucked in a corner of your yard or behind a tree or bush, using bricks,





pavers and different types of stone. These materials are also great for creating walkways and drawing attention to well landscaped areas.

- Lawn edging is useful for keeping your flower beds separate from your lawn. Instead of metal or plastic edging, experiment with different types of concrete and terra cotta roof tile. Dig a trench around the different planting areas you want to define and place the tile upright in the ground. Fill the dirt back in and tamp around the edges until it is stable.
- Build a raised bed vegetable garden out of 2"x6" or 2"x8" dimensional lumber. Redwood and cedar are the best choices for

outdoor garden projects. They are rot resistant and do not contain any dangerous chemicals that will leach into the earth (and your veggies!). Pressure treated, railroad ties and painted wood should be avoided for that reason.

- Finally, a use for all those odd colored sinks and tubs from the seventies! Turn them into herb or flower planters. Fill them with a layer of broken tile or small rocks to help drainage, then fill with potting soil and arrange your favorite herbs or plants. Old sinks can also make a welcome birdbath for your friendly winged creatures.

Unleash your creative and resourceful genius this season. 🏠

Salvage Profile

ReSource Sets Sights on Salvaged Sign

The material:

Channel lock letters on a cardiologist's office building.

The situation:

ReSource opened its second location in Fort Collins in May 2006 set out on a search for salvaged channel lock letters for the front of the building.

The reclamation:

Fort Collins-based DaVinci Sign Systems came to the rescue. They took down a sign from a Denver-area cardiologist's office that was headed to the landfill. It read "AURORA DENVER CARDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES", spelling ReSource twice, missing only an E and a U.



Before:

The sign on the original building.



After:

Reconfigured sign being set atop ReSource in Fort Collins.