

Make home remodeling more eco-friendly

By Mark Collins

For the Camera

If you're looking to get rid of unwanted materials from a home remodeling or renovation project, the first place to know about in Boulder County is the ReSource Yard.

Located in east Boulder, the non-profit organization, operated by the Center for ReSource Conservation, accepts a wide range of items, then resells them at discounted prices to the public.

"We take any sort of reusable building material," said Shaun LaBarre, ReSource Boulder program manager, and a deconstruction professional contracted by the city of Boulder.

That includes doors, windows, structural lumber packages, flooring, wall material, sink and tub/shower units and some appliances.

That gets your leftover or unwanted materials out of your home, and also keeps it from overwhelming area landfills. The ReSource Yard not only takes used materials and items, they offer a "home deconstruction" service.

"We can divert (from landfill) in most projects, 90 percent of the structure," LaBarre said.

Lillian Wallace has coowned the local 1-800 Got Junk franchise for three years. Her company hauls unwanted items from your home or business, and Wallace uses the ReSource Yard often.

"We just did a basement," Wallace said. "Someone had remodeled her basement, and we came in and took away a large piece of countertop, a couple cabinets, a large piece of granite and hauled it to ReSource. They took every last bit of it." Some materials from your home remodel or home improvement projects require special attention. Hazardous waste — oil-based paints, solvents, toxic finishers or strippers — should be taken to the Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste facility.

Last year, the facility served almost 9,000 households, plus another 1,500 through special collection events throughout the county, said Hilary Collins, an assistant division manager with Boulder County.

"There are many different products that can create ground-water pollution, and you wouldn't want to put them in landfill," Collins said.

The county's Hazardous Waste station, located at 5880 Butte Mill Rd., in Boulder, is currently open three days a week. A new facility, however, is in the permit stage. Collins hopes the facility will be operational by the end of the year, and it will be open longer hours and serve a wider range of residential and business needs.

In addition, Eco-Cycle has an excellent Hard-to-Recycle program for materials you're hoping to recycle. Check out the long list of items it accepts, drop-off locations and applicable fees at www.ecocycle.org.

For more information about 1-800 Got Junk, visit

www.1800gotjunk.com denver.

Contact Mark Collins at 303-473-1369 or BDCTheater@comcast.net.



Greg Daily For the Camera

John Beacher unloads hardwood shelves he is donating to the ReSource Yard in Boulder.