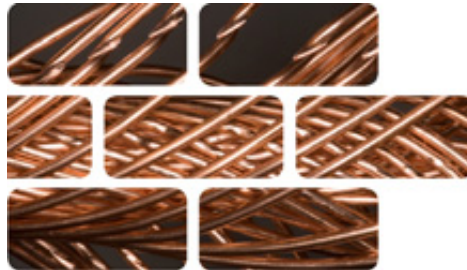


M2 COPPER



Copper is a natural element that is ductile with very high thermal and electrical conductivity. Copper is used in various styles and sizes of pipe, tiles, roof sheets and electric cables. Copper is a high value commodity when compared to some other metals. Copper is fashioned into various products of varying quality and finish to suit functional and architectural purposes.

Copper Metal 17 04 01

WASTE STREAMS

DISPOSAL

The landfilling of copper should not be considered. Small pieces can be recovered at a materials recovery facility.

RECOVERY

There are no recovery options for Copper.

RECYCLE

Copper can be readily recycled as there is a very strong market for these materials to be used as a feedstock for new products, not necessarily for construction.

RECLAIM

Copper tubing, roof tiles and roof sheets that are in good condition and easily removed from other substrates should be set aside for reuse.

USAGE & PROBABLE LOCATIONS

Copper that is used in construction is generally functional and is used for water pipes, the core of electric cables, architectural cladding, roof tiles and roof sheets. It is also used in ironmongery, sanitary ware, fixtures and fittings. It can also be found in service ducts as cables and plumbing, on roofs and on external walls.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

PPE requirements indicated are for guidance purposes only. DRIDS has identified the PPE that is mandatory on all demolition projects and ones that may be required subject to site specific Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS).



REMOVAL, SEGREGATION & STORAGE

Copper that is destined for reuse should be deconstructed, segregated and stored carefully and safely, to ensure their integrity and good condition. Products should be stored flat on a suitably sized pallet or in bundles to prevent warping. They should also be stored away from plant movements to prevent damage. Copper destined for recycling need less attention to detail and should be

segregated into metal recycling skips. There is little need to store copper inside a building or the need for a cover as they are robust against incremental weather.

TOOLS

Hammer, crowbar, jemmy bar, hacksaw, screwdriver, spanners, soldering tools, chisel, bolt croppers, slater's ripper, slater's axe.

FIXTURES, FITTINGS & CONNECTIONS

Copper pipes and electricity cables have been traditionally fixed in place with brackets and screws and the connections sealed with solder or compression joints. Copper tiles are mostly nailed in place. Copper roof sheets are usually moulded into place, tacked lightly and the joints soldered or crimped. Copper pipes, roof tiles and roof sheets are rarely painted as they are generally robust and non-corroding.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Subject to task-specific Risk Assessment & Method Statement (RAMS). Use correct protective equipment for removing screws, nuts and brackets. Wear gloves when handling copper cables with cut edges or coated in plastic sheathing to prevent irritation, cuts and metal splinters. Wear eye protection when using hand tools. Do not walk on wet copper tiles or roof sheets. Use harness protection at height. Only use soldering or cutting tools if properly trained.

FURTHER READING

Designing out Waste
Demolition Code of Practice
Deconstruction and Reuse
Recycling Copper

TRAINING

Working at Height
Manual Handling
Safe Use of Hand Tools
Safe Use of 360 Plant and Attachments