

rockery & raised bed choices

MATERIAL

DESCRIPTION/TIPS

BENEFITS





Described in Patio, walkway & path choices on page 7, broken concrete is a common material often available free if you pick it up, or delivered for a fee

Tips: Look for broken concrete from a single job, such as a driveway or sidewalk demolition (you're likely to see free piles in front yards if you keep an eye out). Chunks of concrete from one source are more likely the same depth and much easier to stack. Find broken concrete through online services and classified ads. Some object to the aesthetics of broken concrete. A stone chisel can give a more natural look to the face broken concrete, and trailing plants can camouflage its surface.

DRAWBACKS

recycled content

durable reusable

wide pieces take up a lot of gardening space in raised heds

Wood Timbers



The most common landscape timbers are pressure treated (injected with rot- and insect-inhibiting chemicals under pressure). For years, treatment with chromium copper arsenate was standard (see the Decking table on page 10 for a description of the hazards of this type of wood treatment). Naturally rot-resistant species, such as juniper, can endure ground contact without the application of toxic wood preservatives.

Tips: Look for locally harvested products, preferably with Forest Stewardship certification. Avoid creosote-coated landscape timbers and railroad ties, which can leach toxic materials into surrounding soils.

natural material

local sources available

even rot-resistant species eventually

can harbor carpenter ants and

Recycled Plastic



Plastic from consumers and the automotive industry is collected, melted, and formed into 4"x4"x8', 6"x6"x8' and larger sizes. This rotproof material can be left in direct contact with soil.

Tips: Look for 100% recycled content. Recycled plastic products are also manufactured locally-look for products made close to home to reduce transportation-related pollution.

durable

recycled content

large dimensions can be difficult to

Salvaged Stone



See Patio, walkway & path choices on page 7 for a description of salvaged stone.

Tips: Landscapes being renovated or redesigned can be a source of salvaged stone. Online exchanges and classified ads are good places to look; see Resources on page 20.

natural material

reused

can be difficult to find quantities of one kind for a large