



# found objects

The materials selection tables above outline many reused items to incorporate into your landscape, but many others exist, as well. Salvage and found objects add personality and a sense of history to your landscape-while taking some of the burden off local landfills.

Flex your creative muscle by salvaging. A trip to a building materials salvage store or industrial surplus yard can yield ready-made art by the pound, or elements you can assemble into a truly one-of-a-kind landscape feature. Garden art takes endless forms, limited only by your imagination. Best of all, you can find salvaged materials for virtually all types of landscape projects, if you know where to look. King County's Online Materials Exchange at [www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/exchange/](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/exchange/) provides an excellent source of reuse materials, with categories for landscaping, siding, lumber, drainage and erosion control, concrete, masonry and more. Local classifieds also provide fruitful sources for salvaged materials.

When using salvaged materials, beware lead-based paints, toxic wood preservatives, and other hazards. Ask questions of the person giving away or selling the material; if in doubt, pass on suspect items. You'll find an abundance of salvaged materials out there so make safety a priority.

Commonly available salvaged materials include:

- Concrete. Described in *Patio, walkway & path choices* on page 7, broken concrete can function as a patio, walkway or rockery. Salvage it from your own walkway or patio demolition, or find it in your neighborhood. Alternatively, demolition companies and concrete recyclers may deliver a load for a fee.
- Stone and brick. Described in *Patio, walkway & path choices* on page 7, these materials are plentiful, thanks to continual building and landscape renovations. Stone and brick is available at used building materials stores and salvage companies. They're also common materials on King County's Online Materials Exchange.
- Metal. Give your yard texture and function with everything from industrial surplus sheet metal to vintage wrought iron gates. Industrial salvage yards and scrap yards are good sources of metal.
- Architectural elements. Create a landscape focal point with masonry, concrete or terra cotta architectural salvage. These elements tend to be higher-end; find them at building salvage stores and even antique stores.



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