



## Salvage Assessment FAQs

- My demolition contractor says they can fill out the Salvage Assessment, is that right?
  - All projects that are whole building demolitions must use a Salvage Verifier. A salvage verifier is a person meeting one of the following criteria:
    - An established salvage and reuse retail company
    - A licensed contractor specializing in deconstruction
    - A demolition company with knowledge of local and current salvage retail marketsA list of possible salvage verifiers may be found through resources such as [The Northwest Building Salvage Network](#).
  - Alteration projects may use a demolition contractor if preferred, however, SPU strongly encourages the use of a salvage verifier when possible, to reduce materials sent to the landfill reducing our carbon footprint and the cost you would have paid to dispose of the materials.
- This permit is for a project that is less than 750 sq feet or \$75,000. Why did I get a notice saying my project needs a Salvage Assessment?
  - All demolition projects (permits with the suffix -DM) must complete a salvage assessment regardless of the value or square footage. If you are completing an alteration or new construction project (permits with the suffix -CN) and your project does not meet the 750 sf or \$75,000 threshold, you are still required to enter the information into the portal and note that the project is either new construction or an alteration that does not meet the required thresholds.
- How much does it cost to have my project assessed for salvage potential?
  - Most salvage verifiers listed on the [Northwest Building Salvage Network](#) do not request a fee for completing an assessment. In fact, using a Salvage Verifier may save you money as there is potential for less materials to be sent to the landfill reducing the cost you would have paid to dispose of the materials.
- Do I have to salvage the materials listed in the Salvage Materials?
  - It is not required, however, salvaging the materials may save you money as there is potential for less materials to be sent to the landfill reducing the cost you would have paid to dispose of the materials.
  - reduce materials sent to the landfill reducing our carbon footprint
  - second life
  - Some Salvage Verifiers listed on the [Northwest Building Salvage Network](#) may charge if there is no follow-up.
- When I try to enter a Salvage Assessment, I get an error message “No eligible permit was found for this permit number. Please contact [Wastediversionreport@seattle.gov](mailto:Wastediversionreport@seattle.gov) with questions.”
  - If the permit number was just issued, wait a day and try to enter the assessment again. If still not working, contact us for help.
- I need to submit a salvage assessment to get my permit, but I don't have a permit number yet so can't access the portal. What do I do?

- You will need to wait until the CN or DM number is created to submit your Salvage Assessment to SPU that is why we are asking for it prior to issuance and not now. SDCI may need you to complete other items prior to issuing your project's permit number.
- The Salvage Assessment is due prior to permit **issuance**.