



R. Baker & Son's Asset Recovery Helps Offset Demolition Cost

R. Baker & Son completed the interior gutting and asset recovery of a vacant pharmaceutical production facility, demonstrating how strategic planning can dramatically reduce demolition costs.



The Challenge

The two-story facility contained extensive industrial assets including multiple air handling units, stainless steel storage tanks (1,000-5,000 gallons), two large lyophilizers with refrigeration skids, vacuum pumps, a clean steam generator, and RODI water treatment systems.

Strategic Approach

Our team established efficient operations by creating a two-story opening with ramp access for heavy machinery and setting up a staging area in the parking lot. We organized direct loading zones and aisle ways for equipment and debris removal and recycling. This streamlined approach enabled simultaneous work across multiple zones throughout the facility.



Asset Recovery Success

Working with specialized equipment restoration companies, we successfully recovered significant value through metal recycling (copper wiring, transformers, heat exchangers) and equipment sales (all stainless steel tanks, water treatment systems, and steam generators).

The project's biggest success involved two large lyophilizers. Due to high market demand and supply chain challenges, the original manufacturer purchased both units complete for refurbishment and overseas resale—providing substantial cost offset to the project budget.

Results

The combination of quality demolition work and comprehensive asset recovery reduced overall project costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars while preparing the facility for its next use. This project demonstrates how experienced contractors can transform potential waste into valuable assets through equipment reuse, recycling, and strong industry partnerships.

R. Baker and Son offers investment recovery, liquidation, and relocation services throughout the US and internationally, allowing clients to substantially reduce costs on their decommissioning, dismantling, demolition and relocation projects.



R. Baker & Son holds the distinction of being the oldest and largest Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Rigging, Dismantling & Demolition Contractor in North America



Building Better Cities: How Strategic Demolition Creates Opportunity



At R. Baker & Son, we know that sometimes the most important work happens before the first new foundation is poured. Strategic demolition isn't just about tearing down—it's about creating possibilities for stronger, healthier communities.

Transforming Neighborhoods

Cities nationwide are discovering that carefully planned demolition projects can catalyze remarkable transformations. Detroit's recent initiatives converted hundreds of abandoned structures into community gardens and pocket parks, turning symbols of urban decline into gathering spaces where neighbors connect and property values stabilize. Removing structurally compromised buildings eliminates safety hazards, reduces criminal activity, and clears the way for productive land use.

The Green Space Advantage

Former building sites are increasingly becoming urban green spaces with multiple benefits. Community gardens and small parks help manage stormwater runoff, reduce urban heat islands, and improve air quality—critical concerns for metropolitan areas. Green spaces provide documented mental health benefits while community gardens supply fresh produce in underserved neighborhoods. Well-maintained green spaces also stabilize surrounding property values and reduce municipal maintenance costs compared to managing vacant buildings.

Professional Execution Matters

Converting problem properties into community assets requires careful planning, environmental assessment, and precise execution. Modern demolition demands coordination with environmental specialists to safely handle hazardous materials like asbestos and lead paint, proper utility disconnection, and collaboration with urban planners to optimize site preparation for future use.

Community Investment

The most successful urban renewal projects recognize demolition as an investment in community potential. When executed thoughtfully, demolition creates opportunities for economic development, improved public health, and stronger neighborhoods.



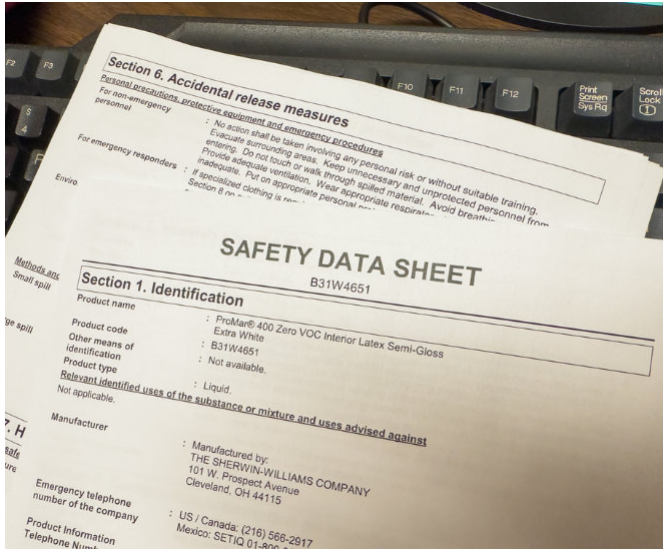
At R. Baker & Son, we're proud to help communities grow and thrive by carefully removing structures to make room for new possibilities.

Demolition Recycling by the Numbers



Demolition recycling has become essential for sustainable construction and waste management. Concrete is one of the most recycled materials, with approximately 90% being reused or recycled for road base or new concrete production. Steel boasts an impressive 95% recycling rate due to its high scrap value, making it one of the most recycled materials globally. Wood recycling reaches about 70%, with salvaged timber repurposed for furniture or mulch. Brick recycling stands at around 50%, where cleaned bricks find new life in construction projects. Cardboard achieves an 88% recovery rate, significantly reducing landfill waste. Collectively, these materials contribute to a more sustainable circular economy in the construction industry.

R. Baker Safety - Did You Know MSDS Sheets Date Way Back to Ancient Egypt



Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), now commonly known as Safety Data Sheets (SDS), are comprehensive documents that provide critical information about material hazards and safe handling procedures. While the modern MSDS framework emerged in the late 20th century, the fundamental principles of safety documentation have roots extending back to ancient civilizations, including Egypt.

These documents serve to inform users about chemical properties, potential hazards, proper handling procedures, and emergency response measures. A standard SDS includes sections covering chemical identification, hazard classification, safe handling and storage protocols, exposure controls, personal protective equipment requirements, and first-aid procedures. Many countries mandate that SDS accompany hazardous substances to ensure workplace safety and regulatory compliance.

The Egyptians demonstrated sophisticated knowledge of various materials used in construction, mummification, and medicine. They meticulously documented the properties of minerals, metals, and herbal extracts on papyrus scrolls, creating some of the earliest material reference guides. Though not formalized as MSDS, ancient texts frequently included safety guidelines for material use. For instance, Egyptian embalming procedures contained detailed instructions on handling specific chemicals—guidance essential for both worker safety and process effectiveness.

As industrialization accelerated through the centuries, the need for standardized safety documentation became increasingly urgent. This evolution culminated in the establishment of modern MSDS requirements in the late 20th century, particularly following the creation of regulatory bodies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the United States.

Today's MSDS originated as a response to contemporary industrial safety needs, yet the underlying principles—documenting material properties and promoting safe handling practices—can be traced to ancient civilizations like Egypt. These early practitioners established the foundational understanding that safe chemical and material handling requires systematic documentation and clear communication of risks.



Quality Award Winner

Congratulations to Danny Remy, this quarter's recipient of the R. Baker & Son Quality Award. This program was established to recognize individuals for their outstanding achievements in safety, project execution, and customer satisfaction, and for their continuing dedication to R. Baker & Son's growth and success.

Thank You, Danny Remy for a job well done!

