



Chris Lillis inspecting the bricks with Alf D'Angelo

Midland Brick Recycles with Pindan

All clay waste from Midland Brick's Middle Swan manufacturing site is recycled, crushed and added to the clay mix for internal bricks. Having developed that process, Alf D'Angelo, Midland Brick's Business Development Manager, saw the potential to extend the program to builders working on sites around Perth.

When launched 5 years ago, uptake was slow but Alf was determined to engage with the construction industry to demonstrate the potential for huge savings in landfill volumes, tip fees, safer sites and new clay resources.

His enthusiasm encouraged Grouped Dwellings Director, Chris Lillis, to enter into a test program to collect brick waste from Pindan building sites. Pindan expended R&D funds to develop the appropriate bins both in strength and size. "We have now settled on 2m³ bins which we place strategically around our sites close to where bricklaying teams are working so that they are encouraged to dump their waste directly into the bins. It is not a money maker but the scheme breaks even and reinforces the company's commitment to the environment", says Chris.

Following the success of the pilot scheme with Pindan, Midland Brick has extended their initiative and invested in a bobcat and truck with a two man team that will collect clean material from building sites. This has gained the support of other builders and even home handymen are encouraged to drop leftover material into recycling bins at Middle Swan, Cannington, Jandakot, Osborne Park and Joondalup sites.

As Alf observes, "To make a success of these environmental initiatives you need committed persons on both sides of the fence; supplier and builder".

Pindan is now extending its own recycling efforts to include both metal and timber on the Belswan site in Pinjarra.