



DESIGN FOR DISASSEMBLY

Originally an architectural concept, designing for disassembly refers to building constructing things in such a way that they are easily deconstructed into parts for reuse, recycling or disposal. Firstly, this lets you dispose of items separately. But secondly, if an item is difficult to deconstruct, it is going to be more likely to be damaged, and more difficult to repair or reuse, reducing its opportunities to have a second life. We know that in the independent sector, bump outs can be stressful and messy, but designing for disassembly will set you up for a schmick and efficient process.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

The more complicated a design build, the more difficult it is to disassemble.

- Try to preference hand tools in the construction, and limit the requirement of any non-standard equipment, or extra-human force.
- Be conscious of the base time required for assembly and disassembly - the less time it takes, the less likely you are to get fed up and cut corners.
- Rather than cutting materials to bespoke sizes, try to design for them to be used as a whole, or in full sheets, as standard sizes are easier to reuse.

MODULAR DESIGN

Design staging and set pieces so they can be separated into smaller parts or modules, which can be disassembled in turn, rather than a single set piece.

REVERSIBLE FASTENINGS

These allow quick and intuitive disassembly accessible to a wider skill base.

- Where possible, always use reversible fastenings such as screws. Nails can also work, but aren't as easily removed, and can result in damage to materials.
- Avoid staples, nail plates, strong adhesives, and spot-welding. If you have to use glues, use ones that are heat-reversible.
- Avoid painting over fastenings, so they are not missed in the deconstruction phase, resulting in damage.
- Wherever possible, force should not be required to undo fastenings.

CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS

Make it easy for anyone to understand the assembly process.

- During construction, clearly label all parts, joins, and fastenings on the build.
- Create detailed instructions and drawings for how the set piece should be dismantled.

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Sources

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