Frequently Asked Questions About Materials Management Planning and Design

Q. What is Materials Management?

A. Materials management is an innovative and comprehensive solution to delivery and servicing needs for university, health care, and corporate campuses and buildings. From lab floors to campus environments, materials management infuses your master plan or renovation plan with the planning and design considerations needed to support the efficient delivery and removal of goods and services that keep occupant activity flowing.

- Truck delivery and service vehicle routes, to reduce vehicle / pedestrian conflict
- Loading docks and delivery points, to increase accommodation and reduce queuing and vehicle idling
- Recycling, trash, and hazardous waste collection and removal, to increase waste diversion and reduce costs
- Service equipment and utility infrastructure relocation or concealment, to improve aesthetics and realize landscaping goals
- Regulatory and operation planning

Q. What tangible benefits can I expect from a Materials Management implementation?

A. Benefits range from cost savings to improved sustainability;

- Reduced Cost: Service infrastructures matched to operational models increase work efficiency, decrease delivery, storage, and removal costs, and recapture short-term capital investments through continued operational savings.
- Enhanced Aesthetics: Greatly improve the visual and physical sense of place for staff, students, faculty, and visitors by removing unsightly conditions, placing core services out of sight, and creating a more pedestrian-friendly campus.
- Recaptured Landscape: Designating and consolidating delivery points can reduce impervious surface by as much as half, enable landscape improvements, and return campus real estate to higher uses.
- Improved Sustainability: A holistic approach to managing vehicle use and emissions, solid waste, hazardous waste, recycling and utility services results in a campus that is not just built green but operates in a sustainable manner.
- Increased Life Safety and Security: Reduce personal injury and property liability through ergonomic loading dock design, proper tracking and storage of materials, and segregation of service traffic.
Q. Why is Materials Management needed?
A. The flow of goods and services is constantly increasing and service activity can obstruct planned development. Kleinfelder has pioneered an approach to help clients enhance safety, service, and sustainability. Materials Management works to not just accommodate the constant flow of goods and services, but to increase efficiency and reduce consumption. We work with owners and project teams to integrate delivery, distribution, storage, and waste/recycling removal into every level of design.

Q. What institutions are doing this?
A. Kleinfelder has provided Materials Management Planning and Design Services for:
- Brown University
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
- Columbia University
- Connecticut Science Center
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Harvard University
- Medical University of South Carolina
- Duke University
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals
- University of Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Stanford School of Medicine
- Fogg Museum
- Yale University

Q. What disciplines are engaged in Materials Management solutions?
A. Materials Management planning is interdisciplinary and includes aspects of architecture, campus planning, urban design, solid waste and recycling management, landscape architecture, civil engineering, traffic analysis, and sustainable practice.

Q. Is Materials Management just another term for campus planning?
A. No. Most campus plans and institutional master plans do not examine service systems from a comprehensive or overall efficiency perspective. It’s a discipline that is often neglected in traditional planning and design.

Q. Why choose Kleinfelder for these services?
A. We have unmatched experience and expertise in the area of materials management design and planning. We have over a decade of experience with dozens of campuses.

“Our purpose is to make our clients’ jobs as easy as possible. We do this by ensuring projects are completed on time, within budget, and without our clients ever having to give it another thought.”

Fred Schafer,
Vice President/Principal,
Kleinfelder