

- ◆ Signed, and fully completed, 'Waste Transfer Notes', (WTNs) should be retained for 2 years, or if your waste is 'Hazardous Waste' then 'Consignment Notes' should be retained for 3 years. Sites must register with the Environment Agency if hazardous waste is produced.
- ◆ If you are a sub-contractor and the main contractor arranges for the recovery or disposal of waste that you produce, you are still responsible. If you are transporting building or demolition waste, even if it is your own waste, you will need to be registered as a waste carrier with the Environment Agency. Examples of wastes classed as hazardous include: asbestos; lead-acid batteries; electrical equipment containing components such as cathode ray tubes (e.g. computers); oily sludges; solvents; fluorescent light tubes and chemical wastes.

### Good Practice

- ◆ Identify the waste types in advance. A Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP)\* is a tool that can help you to improve your environmental performance, meet legal requirements and reduce the cost of disposing of waste.
- ◆ Segregate waste materials to allow more materials be reused or recycled (e.g. paper/card, glass, wood, metal, plastics, construction materials).
- ◆ If you discover any unexpected materials (e.g. buried barrels or containers), stop work until they have been identified. Include this requirement in your method statements and site induction so that everyone working on site knows what to do.

\* Mandatory by April 2008

### Further information

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)  
[www.ciria.org](http://www.ciria.org)  
[www.envirowise.gov.uk/construction](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/construction)  
[www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk)  
[www.wrap.org.uk/construction/](http://www.wrap.org.uk/construction/)

#### Considerate Constructors Scheme

Supporting and monitoring construction sites  
 t: 0800 783 1423  
[www.ccscheme.org.uk](http://www.ccscheme.org.uk)

#### Pollution Control Unit – Bristol City Council

(Contaminated land and out-of-hours working)  
 t: 0117 922 3810 or 0117 9223838  
**Emergencies out of hours:** t: 0117 922 2050  
 e: [pollution.control@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:pollution.control@bristol.gov.uk)

**Pollution Reporting  
 Environment Agency Hotline:  
 0800 807060**

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# Environmental Good Practice on Construction Sites

## Guidance



**A summary of essential environmental regulations and good practice - for all construction sites, large or small.**

## 1 – Storing Oil & Chemicals

### Legal Requirements

- ◆ Storage of oil and fuels in a container with a storage capacity of over 200 litres (44 gallons) requires compliance with the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations 2001.
- ◆ A 'Material Safety Data Sheet' must accompany all potentially hazardous materials.
- ◆ You can be prosecuted for a pollution incident that originated on your site even if caused by vandalism.

### Good Practice

- ◆ Storage of all potentially polluting substances should be located away from drains, channels and watercourses. The storage compound should be fenced off and, when not in use, locked to prevent theft and vandalism. Ensure that all containers are correctly labelled.
- ◆ Have a procedure for dealing with spillages. Always clean up spills immediately. Keep absorbent materials close to the storage areas. Report any serious incidents as soon as they happen.

## 2 – Nuisance (noise, dust, odour, etc)

### Legal Requirements

If levels of dust, odour, noise or vibration are created causing damage to property, or disturbance to the surrounding community, the Council can impose restrictions on your operations, stop your operations, or require you to abate the nuisance. Restrictions can be imposed on the type of plant, hours of working, maximum noise levels.

### Good Practice

- ◆ Restrict operation to 08.00 - 18.00, Monday to Fridays, 08.00 - 13.00 Saturdays. If you need to work outside these hours contact Pollution Control.
- ◆ Make sure all equipment is well maintained and complies with relevant noise and emission control legislation.
- ◆ Mobile compressors, generators and pneumatic tools with sound-reduction should be used.
- ◆ All plant to be switched off when not in use.
- ◆ Minimise the emission of dust by screening, damping down or vacuum removal. On larger sites, use dust-suppression as well as temporary wheel-washing facilities at exits onto roads.
- ◆ Formulate a procedure for recording and dealing with comments and complaints. When operating in residential areas, display contact details for the site manager. Consider using solid panel fencing around the site instead of wire matrix fences, to reduce the level of noise from the site and the escape of wind-blown litter.

**Keep a safe and well managed site. Make sure someone is responsible and contactable at all times and that all contact details are clearly visible at the site entrance**

## 3 – Water Pollution

### Legal Requirements

If as a result of your activities, any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter enters surface waters or groundwater, you may be committing a pollution offence. Immediately report any environmental incidents, such as escape of chemicals or fuel to drains or watercourses.

### Good Practice

- ◆ The main relevant source of guidance is *PPG06 Working at Construction and Demolition Sites*, available from the Environment Agency.
- ◆ Static plant and equipment operating near surface waters, groundwater or drains should be placed on drip trays, these should be regularly emptied. Sheen on the surface shows that oil is present. Remove oil by using oil-absorbent pads. Dispose of used oil-adsorbent pads and drip tray contents as Hazardous Waste.
- ◆ Keep the amount of stripped top-soil to an absolute minimum, to reduce silt pollution from construction sites. CIRIA have produced a document called 'Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites' (2001) which outlines methods of water control.

## 4 – Waste Management

### Legal Requirements

Establish a procurement procedure to ensure that evidence of the registration of any waste carriers is seen before they start removing waste from site. Before work begins, identify sites which can take the types of waste material that you expect to produce. Waste must not be burned on site under any circumstances. Any site where you intend to send waste must have a Waste Management Licence.

### The Duty of Care requires that you ensure that:

- ◆ Waste is handled, recovered or disposed of responsibly and by individuals or companies that are authorised to do so.
- ◆ A full record is kept of all wastes received or transferred by a system of signed notes.