

Environmental Tool Box Talk -Pg2

Waste Management



The UK construction industry generates over 70 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste per year. This is four times as great as the rate of household waste production. Waste sent to Landfill also has a general impact on the environment in terms of methane, which is a greenhouse gas and leachate which pollutes groundwater.

Impact on the project programme and budget.
Handling waste will cost time, money and effort.
 e.g. it takes time to re-handle waste that was not managed properly initially.

People often think that waste costs are only the costs of its disposal. In fact, the true cost of waste is:

- the purchase price of materials that are being wasted
- the cost of storage, transport and disposal of waste
- the cost of time being sent managing and handling the waste
- the loss of income from not salvaging waste materials

Main problems on site:

- wasting excess quantities of raw materials
- storing and handling waste badly
- disposing of too much waste to landfill and therefore paying more landfill tax
- not following the rules on waste transport and disposal.

Storage and handling of wastes
Aim to segregate different types of waste, as segregation has many benefits:

- it is easier to see what types of waste are being produced and where efforts to reduce waste need to be targeted
- it can reduce landfill tax payments, because the contamination of inactive wastes by active wastes is reduced.
- it maximises the potential for reusing and recycling materials (see below)

Waste Management on site:
To manage waste effectively, have a plan to manage:

- the amount of materials that are wasted
- the way in which wastes are handled and stored
- the amount of waste that can be reclaimed
- the method of disposal of waste

- Checklist for storing waste correctly on site:**
- ✓ segregate different types of waste as they are generated
 - ✓ mark waste containers clearly with their intended contents, possibly using colour coding
 - ✓ use containers suitable for their contents
 - ✓ check that containers are not corroded or worn out to minimise the risk of accidental spillage's or leaks.
 - ✓ Provide covers and bunds to prevent evaporation and spillage of waste and ensure that wastes cannot blow away

Landfill Tax - is split into two rates, a charge of £2 per tonnes exists for inactive waste and active waste is currently £11 per tonne but will rise by £1 per tonne per year until it is £15 per tonne. If the load is mixed then the waste will be charged at the higher rate. There are some exemptions to the tax these include the following materials - dredgings, contaminated land, storage of waste materials on the site you occupy for the siteowners (eg Railtrack) restoration of landfill sites (often difficult to categorise), if in doubt seek guidance from your site environmental co-ordinator or the Environment Manager.

Waste as a resource -

Examples of materials arising as wastes on site that may be reused or recycled.

be aware that there may be restrictions on the reuse and recycling of certain materials in some applications; refer to your site environmental co-ordinator, Environment Manager or the Environment Agency.

Concrete - Recycle for use as aggregate in new concrete, or for use as unbound aggregate in roads or fill.

Blacktop - recycle for use in bound layer of road or for use as bulk fill

Excavation spoil - recycle for use as fill, or for landscaping

Topsoil - reuse for landscaping

Timber - reuse for shuttering hoardings, recycle for chipboard