

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Being a good neighbour creates a positive image of the industry. If neighbours complain to their Local Authorities about dust or noise nuisance caused, the Local Authority can impose conditions and restrictions on working, which can lead to delays.

If any problems being caused by dust or noise are not satisfactorily resolved the Local Authority can prosecute those responsible.

If good relations can be established with neighbours, many issues such as access to site, material deliveries and working hours can be improved through friendly negotiation.



- ✓ Be polite and considerate to members of the public at all times.
- ✓ Take accurate notice of any complaint made by a neighbour and pass it on to your line manager.
- ✓ Only use approved routes to access the site.
- ✓ Use only designated parking areas, if they are provided, otherwise always park vehicles with consideration for the needs of others.
- ✓ Keep dust and noise to a minimum.
- ✓ Always close any noise reducing engine covers while plant is in use.
- ✓ Direct site lighting and task lighting away from neighbouring properties.
- ✓ Tell your line manager if rubbish bins or skips are full or nearly full.
- ✓ Notify your line manager immediately if you find any fly tipped waste in the area.



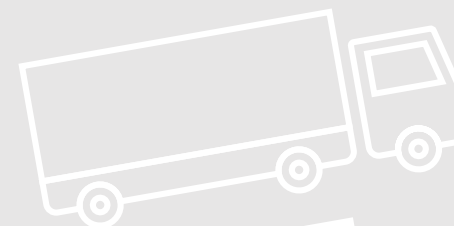
DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T** obstruct vehicle accesses or driveways to neighbouring properties.
- ✗ **DON'T** obstruct public rights of way such as pavements, footpaths, bridleways. **DON'T** drag mud onto the roads outside the site - make sure vehicle wheels are clean before leaving.
- ✗ **DON'T** trespass on neighbour's land.
- ✗ **DON'T** leave engines running unnecessarily.
- ✗ **DON'T** shout on-site or have noisy radios on.
- ✗ **DON'T** shout or whistle at passers-by.
- ✗ **DON'T** drop litter or leave sites untidy.
- ✗ **DON'T** leave gates to the site open.

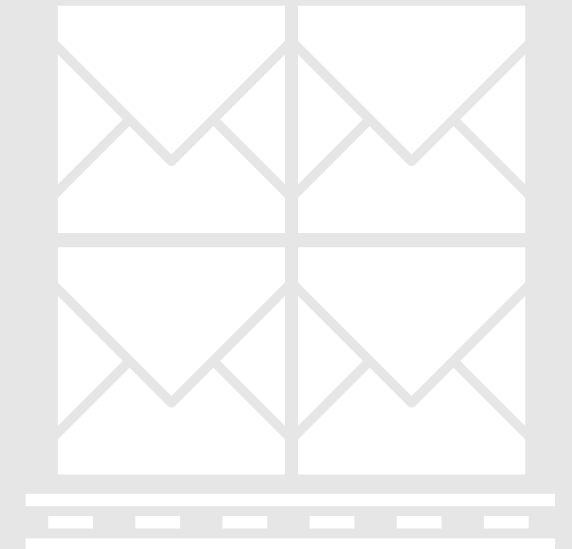
MATERIAL HANDLING & HOUSEKEEPING

Poor storage and handling of materials creates waste, which is a loss of resource and is very costly. Poorly stored materials increase the risk of pollution incidents. A tidy site is a safe site.

Good housekeeping creates a positive image to the general public.



- ✓ Avoid double handling as much as possible: less effort, less damage, less wastage.
- ✓ Supervise the delivery of materials to ensure correct location and method of storage.
- ✓ Check that a material is fully used prior to starting a new batch.
- ✓ Return to storage any materials that have not been used.
- ✓ Use off-cuts where possible.
- ✓ Re-use formwork as often as practically possible.
- ✓ Designate an area for surplus concrete - it can be crushed and re-used.
- ✓ Pick up litter.



DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T** store or leave unprotected any materials that can be damaged by weather, eg. cement bags.
- ✗ **DON'T** over order materials.
- ✗ **DON'T** put materials in a skip if they still have a use.
- ✗ **DON'T** use new lengths of pipe or cable for short pieces of work. Minimise the need for off-cuts.
- ✗ **DON'T** store together any materials that can contaminate each other.



DUST & AIR QUALITY

Dust, emissions and odours can annoy neighbours and may cause health risks at very high concentrations, such as eye irritation or making asthma worse.

Dust can damage the ecology of a watercourse and affect plant growth, including crops.

The Local Authority has the power to stop works if dust is causing a nuisance. Emission of dark smoke from plant and fires **is illegal**.



DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T** burn materials on-site without approval from your Project Manager. Permission is required first from the Environment Agency.
- ✗ **DON'T** use poorly maintained plant. Black smoke may give rise to poor health and can cause a nuisance.
- ✗ **DON'T** leave plant running if not in use.
- ✗ **DON'T** ignore sources of poor air quality, notify your line manager.
- ✗ **DON'T** ignore complaints.



DO

- ✓ Keep surfaces swept and damp down with water at regular intervals.
- ✓ Minimise drop heights into haulage vehicles and into conveyors.
- ✓ Ensure cutting and grinding operations are adequately shielded or wetted.
- ✓ Sheet lorries carrying dry materials off-site.
- ✓ Keep to site speed limits to minimise dust generation.
- ✓ Use the wheel wash, for appropriate vehicles, if one is provided on-site.
- ✓ Store fine, dry materials within buildings or provide adequate protection from the wind.
- ✓ Store bulk cement and bentonite in silos.
- ✓ Position silos and stockpiles away from residential areas or watercourses.
- ✓ Clean up or damp down any spillage of dry dusty materials.
- ✓ Notify your Line Manager if work activities are causing poor air quality.

DO

NOISE & VIBRATION

The Construction Industry is one of the leading sources of noise complaints made to Local Authorities.

Noise and vibration emissions can disturb local residents and give rise to complaints and delays.

Noise can disturb wildlife as well as humans.

Noisy activities include: excavation, tunnelling, concrete cutting, piling, using un-silenced generators and concrete pours.

The Local authority have the power to stop works if noise from the site is causing a nuisance. Failing to meet noise constraints can result in fines.



DO

- ✓ If possible, restrict noisy activities to certain times of the day.
- ✓ Adhere to working hours. Some sites are only consented to work at certain times.
- ✓ Plan deliveries. Arrange routes and times to minimise potential nuisance to the local community.
- ✓ If possible, keep noisy plant away from public areas.
- ✓ Minimise drop heights into hoppers, lorries and other plant.
- ✓ Use local screening where necessary. Noise can be reduced if a screen is placed between plant and nearby sensitive locations eg. houses. Screens can be straw bales or ply board.
- ✓ Use silenced generators and tower lights where necessary.
- ✓ Keep acoustic doors and hoods on plant closed – it does make a difference!
- ✓ Contact your Line Manager if you are in doubt about noisy activities.

DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T** undertake noisy works during the evening, at night or very early in the morning if it can be avoided!
- ✗ **DON'T** leave doors and hoods open on plant.
- ✗ **DON'T** leave plant running unnecessarily.
- ✗ **DON'T** use poorly maintained plant.
- ✗ **DON'T** ignore complaints from the local community.
- ✗ **DON'T** undertake activities that could cause damage to nearby structures through vibration unless approved by your line manager.



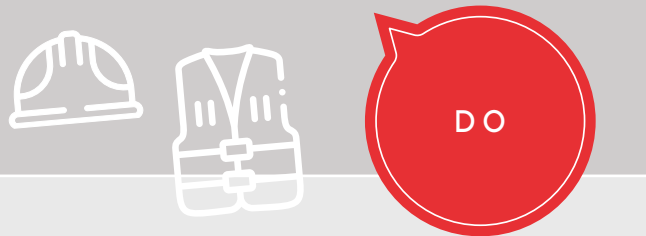
WORKING ON PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND

Land which has previously been built on or used by industrial processes ("brownfield land") or which has in the past had imported material placed upon it ("made ground") may be contaminated with substances which are harmful to humans, wildlife and / or the surrounding environment.

Since potentially contaminated material can sometimes be discovered where it is not expected it is always wise to remain observant during digging operations.

Exposure to certain contaminants may cause harm to health. Working in contaminated soils without the proper precautions and controls may result in pollution and/or harm spreading into the surrounding land, adjacent watercourses or into the atmosphere.

Any pollution escaping from the site **may lead to prosecution.**



- ✓ Always wear the correct protective clothing.
- ✓ Wash your hands and all areas of exposed skin after working in made ground or brownfield land.
- ✓ Look out for changes to the types of material being worked in which may show up as:
 - Differences in colour or texture.
 - The presence of refuse (rubbish) or other foreign objects.
 - Differences in smell - common contaminants such as oils, landfill gases and degrading waste have distinctive odours.
- ✓ If you see changes like these **STOP WORK** make the area safe and notify your Line Manager.
- ✓ Prevent the spread of contaminated dust – either cover the source or damp it down.



- ✗ **DON'T** take off PPE.
- ✗ **DON'T** smoke or eat whilst working in made ground.
- ✗ **DON'T** permit colleagues or other operatives to enter the contaminated land until your line manager instructs you to do so.

