



The construction industry produces the enormous amounts of waste due to million tonnes of material used. The building works are connected with the production of over 100 million tonnes of waste, but only 25 million tonnes is disposed of. Read how to reduce waste by using materials more efficiently and collecting rubbish for recycling.

Reducing and recycling the construction waste can generate an additional income, reduce the costs of purchasing more materials, increase skip space, comply with legislation, reduce CO2 emissions, etc.

All businesses have to ensure the waste they produce is handled safely and legally. It is the responsibility of the contractor to check if the company removing debris from the building site is a registered waste carrier. Use the Waste Directory Website (www.wastedirectory.org.uk) to find the registered carrier. A Waste Transfer Note must accompany every load of waste that leaves your site. This provides an accurate description of the waste to enable it to be treated safely. You must keep copies of all waste transfer notes for at least two years.

Follow this steps for the efficient site waste management:

- arrange deliveries at various work stages to avoid storage on site
- avoid over-ordering
- reduce the amount of defective work
- never accept poor quality materials
- buy sand and sharp in bulk bags to reduce wastage
- encourage workers to join the waste management on site by offering them bonuses
- return or donate unused materials or left overs
- use recycled materials
- sort waste for recycling
- repair pallets for reuse
- use the insulation cut offs
- sort plastic packaging
- sort timber, cardboard and rubble
- invest in a mini crusher-screener to process old bricks, blocks or concrete into recycle aggregate for new projects

A Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is a legal requirement in England for projects over £300,000. It requires the contractor to forecast and record waste and how it is managed. SWMP may still be required for BREEAM assessments or by the local planning authority. Local planning authority might request a SWMP as the part of planning process. Using the SWMP will help the to:

- increase profit margins
- reduce waste costs
- stay compliant with the legal obligations
- decrease amount of waste

What is a SWMP? It sets out how waste resources can be managed at all stages of a building project. This document states who is responsible for waste management, what types of waste will be generated, how the waste will be managed, which contractors will be legally responsible for waste disposal, how the waste quantity will be measured, etc.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) specifies the non-statutory requirements for the Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and provides the template.

The SWMP applies to all aspects of construction work including preparatory work such as demolition and excavation. The plan must be implemented and then updated as construction proceeds, with a greater level of detail for projects that cost more than £500,000. All waste transactions must be recorded or referenced in the plan to prevent the likelihood of fly-tipping.

At the end of the project the completed SWMP with records of all waste management actions needs to be reconciled against what was planned before work began. Regular updating during the construction phase should make this a relatively straightforward process. SWMP should be kept in accessible place for a regulatory compliance check.

The template of the site waste management plan can be downloaded from Appendix A at <http://web.archive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130403020108/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/topics/construction/pdf/swmp-guidance.pdf>

Considerate Constructors Scheme published the template for the waste management plans aimed at smaller construction businesses to help them comply with waste management legislation. The template is an Excel spreadsheet with common construction works Waste Codes. It is very straightforward and can be obtained here: <https://ccsbestpractice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Introductory-WMP-Template1.xls>

(Source: DEFRA, CCS)

THE SWMP SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

RESPONSIBILITIES

- The client
- The principal contractor
- The person who drafted the plan

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS

- The location of the construction site
- The estimated cost of the project

MATERIALS RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

- Any decision taken before the SWMP was drafted to minimise the quantity of waste produced on site.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Describe each waste type expected to be produced during the project
- For each waste type estimate the quantity of waste that will be produced 9. For each waste type identify the waste management action proposed (including re-use, recycling, other types of recovery and disposal)

WASTE CONTROLS AND HANDLING

- A declaration that all waste produced on the site is dealt with in accordance with the waste duty of care.⁴
- A declaration that materials will be handled efficiently and waste managed appropriately.

