

Toolbox Talk Details

Title	E11 - Waste
Reason	Waste management and control are vital elements in the construction industry. Every year millions of pounds are wasted by poor management of materials and resources.
Outline	This talk covers some important aspects of waste management and control.

Waste management and control

1. The golden rules are:

Prevent – Avoid producing waste in the first place.

Reuse – Use items as many times as possible (where safe and appropriate to do so).

Recycle – Recycle what you can, only after you have reused it.

Recover – Send what cannot be recycled to an alternative treatment facility for energy recovery.

Dispose – As a last resort, send the waste to landfill for disposal.

2. Waste comes from many sources, including packaging, contaminated ground, road sweeper arisings, excavations, damaged materials, off-cuts and leftovers (mortar, concrete, plaster, plasterboard, paints, solvents, and so on). Anything not used is classed as waste if you intend to discard it.
3. Minimising waste by following the golden rules takes more effort but is good for the environment and the company.
4. Segregating waste into hazardous, non-hazardous and inert types for disposal or recycling maximises opportunities for recovery, reduces costs and helps to avoid penalties.
5. Check whether your site is using a site waste management plan.

Control measures

1. Store materials properly and safely to prevent damage before use.
2. Keep significant off-cuts for reuse and know the correct place to stockpile and protect materials for reuse.
3. Consider the quantity of material to be used before ordering or opening a pack and use it all before opening a new pack.
4. Reuse materials (such as formwork and shuttering) where practical.
5. Tell your supervisor about instances in your work where you could reduce waste.

Precautions

1. Do not place materials for reuse in areas where they could be damaged or be contaminated by other materials.
2. Do not use a new length of timber, pipe or cable without checking the reusable stock.
3. Follow procedures for the controlled disposal of contaminated waste to avoid prosecution.
4. Do not overfill skips. If a skip is full tell your supervisor.
5. Do not mix hazardous, non-hazardous and inert waste together; it prevents recycling and is more costly.

Revision Date	Assessed By	Signature
January 2021	Michael Reddan	