

Protected Waste Management and Chemical Storage



'Do it right on site' is a project to help the construction industry protect the environment and achieve the many benefits that come from doing so.

Protected Waste Management and Chemical Storage - What is it?

This refers to storage of your solid and liquid materials and wastes in a way that does not pollute the stormwater system.

Why is it important?

Building sites provide temporary storage to a number of chemicals and materials with high potential to pollute stormwater:

Chemicals such as:

- wood preservatives
- toilet reagents
- pesticides
- paint thinners
- fuels
- adhesives
- water repellents
- lime
- cement

can be silt into the stormwater system.

Waste materials including:

- timber off cuts,
- packaging,
- sawdust,
- small paper & cardboard items

can be blown into the stormwater system. Many of these substances are toxic to animals and plants.

What do I need to do?

Before building commences:

Assess the site and your requirements. Can you minimise the number of chemicals needed or the waste produced? What wastes can be recycled or reused? How are you going to store the different wastes safely? Decide on your needs and choose a part of the site for the storage area that is not within a surface drainage area or close to any stormwater inlets. The waste area should be near the stabilised access point so that the pick up truck can retrieve skips without causing undue damage to the soil and vegetation surrounding the area. Document it on your Soil and Water Management Plan and ensure staff are aware of its importance.

Installing the controls:

Ideally place all chemicals inside a secure shed on site with keys allocated to persons approved by the worksite supervisor. If no shed is available but the site is secure, chemicals can be stored in sealed containers within a leak proof spill tray and covered with a tarpaulin. Where secure onsite storage is not available, have all chemicals removed and safely stored off site at the end of each work day. Store copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all chemicals and 'spill clean up kits' on site. Train staff on their use. In the event of a spill, the source should be quickly and safely stopped and the spilt material isolated and contained from the stormwater system and waterways. The spill must be cleaned up according to the MSDS. Help and advice must be sought from the appropriate emergency authorities for large or hazardous spill incidents. It is an offence not to notify them.

Skip bins for wastes and recycling should be covered to prevent wind blowing waste off-site but also to prevent rain water from entering and being contaminated by the wastes. **Cover the skip any time the site is unattended, over night, at weekends and when it is wet or windy.** Provide continuous dust protection for any chutes and conveyors used to load the skip from roof or upper storeys. If skip bins are stored in public areas, notify neighbours and Council inspectors and ask for their help in stopping illegal use.

Maintenance of the controls:

Arrange regular and timely clearance of waste skips so that over filling and wet weather pick up are avoided. Remove chemicals from the site as soon as they are no longer needed.



Reuse and recycling potential of materials

MATERIALS	PROCESS	END USE
Concrete	Crushed and recycled Surplus	Used as Fill, levelling, road base Used as base for paths, minor slabs
Bricks	Cleaned and reused Crushed	Used in Construction, landscaping Used in Driveways, landscaping
Roof Tiles	Cleaned and reused Crushed and recycled	Sold, reused as roofing, in landscaping Into Landscaping, driveways, drainage
Plasterboard	Reprocessed and recycled	Into New plasterboard
Hardwood Beams	Detailed and reused	Used as Flooring, furniture, fencing, craft
Other timber	Cleaned and reused Ground and recycled	Used as Formwork, bridging, propping Into Mulch, engineered timber products
Doors, windows	Cleaned and reused	Sold to Second hand market
Fittings	Cleaned up and reused	Sold to Second hand market
Glass	Crushed and recycled	Into Aggregate for concrete products
Carpet- wool	Reused	Used as Mulch, landscaping
Underfelt - natural	Reused	Used as Compost cover, mulch, landscaping
Underlay - rubber	Shredded and recycled	Used in Safety barriers, speed humps
Trees	Relocated and reused	Used in Landscaping on or off site
Greenwaste	Shredded and recycled	Used in Compost, mulch, fertiliser
Overburden	Screened and reused	Used as Topsoil
Metals	Scrap metals recycled	Into New metal products
Packaging	Shredded and recycled	Into New packaging

Table modified from 'After the inner City Waste Board'(1998) as published in: Master Builders Association (1998) 'Smart resourceful building- save on waste'.

List of fact sheets available from Council:

1. Diversion of Upslope Water
2. Dust Control
3. Early installation of Roof Drainage
4. Excavation Pump Out
5. Protected Concrete, Brick and Tile Cutting
6. Protected Concrete Delivery
7. Protected Service Trenches
8. Protected Stockpiles
9. Protected Wash Areas
- 10. Protected Waste Management and Chemical Storage**
 11. Protecting Vegetation
 12. Protection of Gutter and Street Stormwater Drains
 13. Protection of Site Stormwater Pits
 14. Sediment Controls
 15. Soil and Water Management Plans
 16. Stabilised Site Access

For further information on preventing pollution from building and construction sites contact your local council:

Remember:

Everyone has a responsibility to protect the environment. The site supervisor is required to make sure that all workers, including sub-contractors are doing the right thing and all workers are required to notify their supervisors and Council if they see pollution occurring.

It is illegal for any substance other than rainwater to enter the stormwater system. If you do have an accident and pollution occurs you are required by law to notify the Council so that they can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment.

Penalties for polluting the stormwater system range from \$750 on the spot fines to \$1 million and seven years in gaol. Both companies and individuals can be fined.

Council Officers and the EPA enforce the environmental legislation and do routine inspections of building sites. They can issue notices to make companies clean up sites, change the way they are managing the sites and if necessary, cease work. They will attempt to work with you but penalties will be issued if a satisfactory environmental outcome is not achieved.

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THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN



Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils