

Waste management, storage and disposal

Regardless of whether a site waste management plan (SWMP) or resource management plan (RMP) is used, all construction companies have a duty of care towards managing their waste under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

SWMPs or RMPs can raise the profile of waste planning, improve the environmental awareness of the workforce and ensure compliance with the regulations.

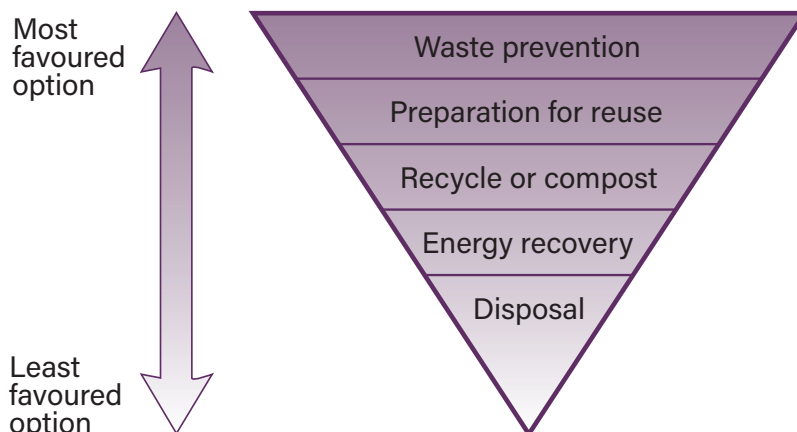
See also **Resource efficiency and responsible sourcing**.



Before any work starts on site

All reasonable measures should be taken to prevent waste and consider the waste hierarchy when waste is transferred. The waste hierarchy is a series of steps for dealing with waste in order of priority, and signifies the relative environmental benefits that can be made at each stage.

The waste hierarchy shows that the highest priority is waste prevention or reduction, so that the need for other options (such as re-use, recycling and energy recovery) would be dramatically reduced. During the design and pre-construction stages, you should consider the most favoured option from the hierarchy (pictured below).



When work has started on site

During the construction phase, management of the other options and the least favoured option should be taken into account, alongside the following.

- Waste management permits, licences or exemptions must be in place for processing of waste on site.
- Producers of waste must correctly identify whether surplus materials are waste, and classify it as non-hazardous or hazardous, using a waste classification code and the standard industry classification (SIC) code.
- Producers of waste have a legal duty of care to ensure that it is passed on to an authorised person.
- All contractors who carry or collect construction and demolition waste must have a waste carrier's licence.
- All waste transfers must be supported by the correct document (a controlled waste transfer note) for non-hazardous waste: the transfer of hazardous waste also requires a consignment note.
- All waste transfer documentation must include the relevant EWC six-digit code that describes and categorises the waste, and the relevant SIC code describing the area of construction from where the waste originated (construction of buildings, civil engineering or specialist construction activities).

A six-figure list of waste codes for the type of waste being remove MUST be written on every waste transfer note (for example, skip/muck away tickets).

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