

Construction Packaging Waste:

Toolbox Talk

What?

- Only about half of the vast amounts of construction and demolition waste generated each year in the UK is recycled or reclaimed for re-use.
- A large part (5-50%) of the waste from a construction project is derived from materials used to support, package and protect products and materials delivered to site.
- Packaging materials include paper, cardboard, timber, plastics and some metals. **All of these materials are either re-usable or recyclable.**
- Stopping this recyclable waste going to landfill is the responsibility of everyone on-site.
- Waste removal by incineration or landfill uses up the Earth's natural resources and can lead to pollution.
- The key is to minimise waste and maximise the use of what we do have. A better use of resources would be to create packaging that can be re-used or recycled.

Why?

- To protect the environment for ourselves and future generations so that they can enjoy the world in the way we have been able to.
- To reduce the costs of sending waste to landfill, which are increasing each year.
- To save money and increase profitability.
- To enhance company reputation.

Do

- Send packaging back to the supplier via an agreement with them.
- Try to re-use packaging such as pallets and cardboard boxes on-site as much as possible before placing them in segregated waste areas.
- **Place waste in the correct colour-coded waste segregation bin** (if provided).
- If you think over-packaging has happened or you feel that there is too much or too little space for some wastes, tell the packaging waste champion, eg the skip for plastics is never filled or cardboard waste is never compacted/flattened. Money is wasted by taking half-filled skips off-site.
- Take extra care when moving and storing goods to avoid damaging them, and don't remove packaging before it is safe to do so.
- Keep the site tidy and organised. This will help with waste identification and segregation, and also remove slip and trip hazards.

Don't

- Ignore waste on site that isn't in a bin - put it in the appropriate container.
- Mix different wastes in the bins/skips.
- Allow pallets and other packaging containers to get damaged.
- Over-order a product because it will come with additional packaging.

