

Construction Checklist

This checklist has been designed to support you in assessing how construction work may impact the environment and how to prevent damages. It highlights key areas where action may be required, helping you to identify potential environmental risks and ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

Know your land

- Check if the land you are working on is subject to any special protections:
 - Is your working area subject to an archaeological watching brief?
 - Is your working area a protected area? (e.g. habitat, peatland)
 - Could the land be contaminated. E.g. from previous industrial use, fly tipping, or from naturally occurring substances in the land?
- Check the building area for evidence of invasive non-native species (such as Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam.)
- Identify potential pollution sources, pathways and receptors.
- Have you done a wildlife and habitat survey?
- Have you done a flood risk assessment?

Prevent water pollution

- Create a pollution prevention plan
- Have you got a dedicated area for maintaining your vehicles?
- If you store oil and chemicals on site, check if you need an EASR authorisation. As a minimum, you should apply the [General Binding Rules](#).
- If you are working in, or close to water you will likely need an authorisation from SEPA.
- Manage run-off and silty water appropriately, ensuring only clean, uncontaminated water is discharged to the water environment. Any discharge (including water run-off) will require an EASR authorisation from SEPA.
- Plan your construction site drainage systems. Consider surface water run-off, controlling and removing sediments like silt and other pollutants.
- Consider cut-off ditches and temporary Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) or similar solutions.

- Check that your staff know what to do if there is a spill of any waste on your site.

Water authorisation

- Check what types of activities you are going to carry out? Depending on your activity, you may need an authorisation from SEPA.

Activities that require authorisation include:

- Discharges into surface waters or groundwater, this includes the discharge of surface water run-off
- Abstraction of water
- Impoundment of water (store or dam water)
- Engineering or building works in, or near to inland watercourses

Waste management

- Storing waste

- Check that the threshold or the type of waste you store does not require an [EASR authorisation](#). As a basis, you should comply with the General Binding Rules (GBRs)
- Position storage areas away from watercourses and drains.
- Store waste securely and protect it from vandalism and vermin.
- Cover or net any loose waste
- Use adequate drainage and bunds around storage areas to contain any contaminated run-off and prevent it from spreading. Regularly check your waste containers for leaks, holes or other damages.
- Segregate and store different waste types separately
- Use appropriate signage to identify the storage containers for each different waste types
- For waste to be disposed of and for special waste, check that you store it for no longer than 12 months.
- For waste to be recycled, check that you store it for no longer than three years.

- Special waste

- Check whether you produce special waste on your site.

The limits for special waste you store are:

- liquid waste in a secure container– 23,000 litres
- solid waste in a secure container – 80 cubic metres
- solid waste in a secure place – 50 cubic metres

- Store special waste separately from non-special waste.
- Keep different types of special waste separate.
- Display written instructions for the storing and disposing of each type of special waste.
- Regularly check for leaks, deteriorating containers and other potential risks.

– **Moving waste**

- If you transport waste as part of your business, you need to [register as a waste carrier](#).
- Complete waste transfer notes every time you or someone else takes waste away from your site. You must keep copies of all your waste transfer notes for at least two years.
- Check that your waste ends up where your waste carrier says it does. You should check periodically that your waste is being disposed of correctly – remember it is your responsibility (your duty of care) to make sure your waste disposed of appropriately
- Complete consignment notes whenever anyone else takes special waste away from your site.
- Pre-notify SEPA before you move any special waste in Scotland or bring special waste into Scotland from England or Wales.
- Keep consignment notes (for special waste) for three years.

– **Burning construction waste**

- Check what types of activities you are going to carry out? Depending on your activity, you may need an authorisation from SEPA.

Further information

[NetRegs: Construction guidance](#)

[GPP 21: Pollution incident response planning](#)

[GPP 4: Guidance for pollution prevention](#)

[GPP 5: Works or maintenance in or near water](#)

[Construction guidance notes and animations](#)