

# Welfare facilities

## What you need to know as a busy builder

**Pushed for time running a busy building site? These are the essential health and safety top tips you should follow, even if you don't directly employ the people working on your site.**

You should provide:

- clean and working toilets;
- washbasins with hot and cold running water;
- soap and towels;
- sinks large enough to wash face, hands and forearms;
- somewhere to change, dry and store clothing;
- drinking water, and cups if needed; and
- a rest area to sit, make hot drinks and eat food.

You must also keep your welfare facilities warm and well ventilated, with lighting if necessary.

This is just a summary – you can find out what else you need to know about health and safety by visiting [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm)

### What can happen if health and safety is ignored?

*At an inspection, a company was found not to have provided welfare facilities at a construction site and was served with an improvement notice. The company failed to provide the facilities within the timescale and was prosecuted. The company received a £2000 fine for not complying with the notice, a £5000 fine for not providing the welfare facilities, and had to pay prosecution costs of £1272.*

See over for examples of good practice...

### Fee for Intervention -

HSE now recovers the costs of time spent dealing with material breaches of health and safety law. This is known as Fee for Intervention (FFI). FFI generally applies when an inspector finds something wrong that they believe is serious enough for them to write to you about. A fee is charged for the time spent by the inspector in sorting it out. Following the simple guidance on this sheet may help you to avoid having to pay a fee.

## Unacceptable



## Good example



## Further information

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk). You can order HSE priced publications at <https://books.hse.gov.uk>. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

**This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing**

**enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance.**

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[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis62.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis62.pdf).

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