

Keeping your site tidy

What you need to know as a busy builder

Want to run a tidy, safe and secure construction 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.

- Keep the site boundary fence or hoarding in good repair. Check it regularly to make sure it is in good condition, it isn't falling down and it hasn't been damaged.
- Only allow authorised people on site – and keep the gate closed between deliveries.
- Keep vehicles and pedestrians apart while they are moving around the site. Use barriers if necessary.
- Make sure footpaths and traffic routes are firm, level, stoned up if necessary, and gritted if icy.
- Keep walkways, stairs and work areas clear and free from obstructions such as trailing cables, rubbish and unused materials. Tidy up as you go.
- Make sure you have:
 - toilets with hot water, paper and soap;
 - somewhere for workers to change, store and dry their clothing, and somewhere to sit and eat.
- Keep all the welfare facilities clean, tidy, well lit and warm.
- Put skips where they can be filled easily, and collected safely.
- Make sure timber is stacked flat rather than upright and pallets used to stack materials are in good condition, on firm ground and not leaning.
- Explain to everyone on site the importance of keeping their work area clear and enforce it.

What can happen if health and safety is ignored?

After receiving a number of complaints, an inspector visited a site and found that the workers were at risk from falling from the edge of a roof and the site was not kept tidy and safe, with timber lying around that had not been de-nailed. There weren't enough portable toilets, they were poorly lit, not clean and had no washing facilities.

The company were prosecuted and fined £10,000 and ordered to pay more than £5000 costs.

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.

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

Unacceptable practice



Acceptable practice



© Crown copyright If you wish to reuse this information visit www.hse.gov.uk/copyright.htm for details. First published 09/14

The Working Well Together campaign aims to improve health and safety in the construction industry, particularly in small and micro businesses. For more information visit www.wwt.uk.com



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.