

<b>Talk No: 67</b>	<b>Title: Dealing with Waste</b>
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**Introduction:** Anyone who produces, imports, keeps, stores, transports, treats or disposes of waste must take all reasonable steps to ensure that waste is managed properly. This duty of care is imposed under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

**5 Steps for Dealing with Waste**

1. **Prevention:** using less material in design and manufacture, keeping products for longer, re-use, using less hazardous materials
2. **Preparing for re-use:** checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts
3. **Recycling:** turning waste into a new substance or product, includes composting if it meets quality protocols
4. **Other recovery:** includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste, some backfilling
5. **Disposal:** landfill and incineration without energy recovery

**Waste Carrier**

A waste carrier is someone who will take the waste away either to a waste manager or to a final disposal point. The Health and Safety Executive license waste carriers and some companies hold a licence for the transport of waste from sites. We have a duty to ensure that any carriers we use are registered and to check with the regulating authorities to ensure that their registration is valid.

**Transfer Notes**

Transfer notes must be completed by all parties and the carrier must always be in possession whilst transferring waste. We must retain copies of all transfer notes for two years on the contract file.

**Waste handling represents, typically, three key hazards:**

- **Manual Handling:** Those responsible for gathering up the waste and transporting it to central collection points are exposed to hazards associated with the bulk of that which they are moving. Correct lifting principles should be adopted at all times.
- **Fire:** Waste as it accumulates, from waste paper bins to waste disposal skips represents a fire hazard. Waste areas should be monitored and reported if bins or skips begin to get over full.
- **Contamination:** Some types of waste, including food debris and materials generated during first aid treatment are potential sources of personal contamination.

**Hazardous Waste Materials**

Such as large numbers of fluorescent tubes, medical waste and toxic waste should be segregated and safely held until collected by a specialist waste contractor.

**What can you do at work?**

- If you think that waste is not being disposed of properly, notify your line manager.
- Always complete a waste transfer note either our own or the licensed waste carrier.
- Never mix commercial and industrial waste.
- Minimise waste accumulation by ensuring that you observe good housekeeping principles, do not ignore over filled bins and skips.
- Clean and clear up after your work daily.

**WASTE TODAY IS TOMORROWS PROBLEM**