

NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

THAMES REGION



NRA

POLLUTION PREVENTION GUIDELINES

WORKING AT DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION SITES

These guidelines have been drawn up to assist those in the demolition and construction industry whose activities may pose a pollution risk. Compliance with these should minimise the effect of that work on the environment. Early consultation with the local National Rivers Authority Water Quality Office is advisable. Details of these offices will be found at the end of these guidelines.

1. LEGISLATION

Your attention is drawn specifically to the following legislation:-

- i) Water Resources Act 1991
- ii) The Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
- iii) Land Drainage Act 1991
- iv) Environmental Protection Act 1990

It should be noted that under Section 85 of the Water Resources Act, 1991, it is an offence to discharge poisonous, noxious or polluting material, into any "controlled waters", either deliberately or accidentally. Polluting materials include silt, cement, concrete, oil, petroleum spirit, sewage or other debris and waste materials. "Controlled waters" include all watercourses and water contained in underground strata. Road drains and surface water gullies generally discharge into controlled waters and should be treated as such.

2. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- a. In planning and carrying out any works, precautions must be taken to secure the complete protection of watercourses and water in underground strata against pollution. These should include an investigation of past use of the site to ensure that the operations will not disturb contaminated land.
If pollution should occur, then the site operator should advise the National Rivers Authority immediately and take prompt action to minimise the effect.
- b. A common cause of pollution from sites is vandalism and theft. Sites should, therefore, be adequately protected by secure fences and locked access where possible.

3. SILT & CEMENT

- a. The washout from concrete mixing plant or the cleaning of ready mix concrete lorries must not be allowed to flow into any drain or watercourse.
- b. Site roads must be regularly scraped and kept free from deposits in order to prevent silt, oil or other materials entering any drain or watercourse.
- c. Any lorry wheel wash facilities should be securely constructed with no overflow and the effluent should be contained for proper treatment and disposal.

- d. Before any discharge of water is made from the site, adequate provisions, such as settlement lagoons, must be made to ensure that pollution will not occur. The local NRA office should be consulted in order to obtain approval.

Note Under Section 85 of the Water Resources Act, 1991, it is an offence to discharge trade or sewage effluent into controlled waters without the prior consent of the Authority.

4. OIL & CHEMICALS

- a. All fuel and chemical storage must be sited on an impervious base within a bund and secured. The base and bund walls must be impermeable to the material stored and of sufficient capacity to contain 110% of the volume of the largest tank. Filling and refuelling must be strictly controlled and together with any oil storage tanks should be confined to a location remote from any watercourse or drain. Leaking or empty oil drums must be removed from the site immediately.

Detailed guidelines concerning above ground oil storage tanks are available.

- b. All valves and trigger guns should be as resistant to unauthorised interference and vandalism as possible, and should be turned off and securely locked when not in use.
- c. The contents of any tank should be clearly marked on the tank, and a notice displayed requiring that valves and trigger guns be locked when not in use.
- d. Any tanks or drums should be stored in a secure container or compound, which should be kept locked when not in use.
- e. Before any tank is removed or perforated, particularly during demolition works, all contents and residues must be emptied by a competent operator for safe disposal. Pipes may contain significant quantities of oil or chemicals, and should be capped, or valves closed, to prevent spillage.

5. CONTACTING THE NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

If a polluting discharge should occur, the material should be contained (by using sand or soil, for example) and the NRA should be notified immediately at the nearest office listed below.

For further information, or in the event of pollution, please contact your nearest NRA Water Quality office at:-

READING	0734 311422	OXFORD	0865 749400
WALTHAM CROSS	0992 35566	AMERSHAM	0494 722361
LONDON SE	081 310 5500	GUILDFORD	0483 577655

... or at all times on Freefone 0800-252768

Headquarters: *Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road,
Reading, Berks. RG1 8DQ
Telephone 0734 535000*

National Rivers Authority	
Reading Centre	
Poll Office	
Class No
Station No	RIE1

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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