



KESAB *environmental solutions* Building & construction industry Environmental checklist



Partnerships in building a better environment for SA

SITE:

- INTRODUCTION

Building and major construction sites are a necessary part of modern life, but if not managed carefully can contribute to environmental problems such as stormwater pollution and high levels of waste generation.

Safety can be jeopardised and annoyance or inconvenience can be caused by the action of builders and contractors if they don't do the right thing.

Substantial fines can be issued for breaching environmental legislation, Council by-laws and regulations. They range from on the spot fines of \$300 for littering and stormwater pollution to Court prosecutions up to a maximum penalty of \$30 000.

- YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Laws in South Australia require all building construction works must be carried out in a way that will prevent the entry of any pollution into waterways, including stormwater systems.

If you are involved in the building industry, you are required to "take all reasonable and practicable care" to reduce or prevent any adverse environmental impact as a result of your activities.

The following checklist is designed to help you think about the various elements of the construction process that could potentially be having a negative effect on the environment. It also provides you with some ways to help you improve your environmental performance. By complying with the suggestions, you should avoid, or at least be able to defend yourself from prosecution.

- THE LAW & YOU

There are numerous laws, regulations, policies and guidelines to help protect the environment in South Australia. They set out legal requirements and guidelines for business, industry and the general community.

If you break the law, it could be an offence with serious penalties; in most cases, the prosecutor does not have to prove your pollution was deliberate. Even accidents can result in prosecution.

You and others involved with your business should be aware of these laws and their penalties. You must take all reasonable and practicable care not to harm the environment.

Legislation you must be aware of includes:

Environment Protection Act

Environment Protection Policy (Water Quality)

Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality)

Local Government Act

Development Act

Public & Environmental Health Act

For further information on the law and how it can affect you, refer to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) *'Handbook for Pollution Avoidance on Commercial & Residential Building Sites'* pages 4-6.

Sediment & erosion controls

Is your site near to, or does it slope towards an adjacent site, road, drain or watercourse?

Yes No

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Sediment fencing & Stabilised entry/exit point* information sheets.

Do you have sediment and erosion control measures in place before excavation starts?

Yes No N/A

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Sediment fencing & Stabilised entry/exit point* information sheets.

Do you ensure stormwater drains around your site are free of litter, soil, building materials, etc?

Yes No

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Litter and building waste* information sheet.

Do you have a single entry/exit point that is stabilised (gravelled) to prevent drag out of sediment/mud onto the road, footpath and gutter?

Yes No

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Stabilised entry/exit point* information sheets.

Have you advised your subcontractors and material suppliers of their environmental responsibilities?

Yes No

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Delivering to building sites* information sheet.

Are stockpiles protected by a sediment fence on the downward side?

Yes No N/A

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Sand and soil stockpiles* information sheet.

Do you ensure the road adjacent to your site is cleared of all soil, mud, clay and any concrete waste by broom and/or shovel at the end of each day?

Yes No

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Soil onsite checklist & Delivering to building sites* information sheets.

Do you connect downpipes to the stormwater system as soon as roofing is completed to help prevent sediment from being washed off the site?

Yes No

Refer to KESAB Clean Site – *Early roof downpipe connection* information sheet.

- Dust control

Is the site likely to become dusty? (Suppress dust where possible)

Yes No N/A

Refer to EPA's '*Handbook for Pollution Avoidance on Building Sites*' pages 28-29.

- Waste management

Do you have a waste bin placed on site, emptied regularly and where it cannot contaminate or pollute stormwater drains if it rains?

Yes No

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *Litter and building waste* information sheets.

Do you separate any of your building waste, ie items for reuse or recycling?

Yes No N/A

Refer to KESAB Clean Site *What building materials can be recycled?* information sheet.

- Noise control

Are you aware of noise regulations and do you take steps to minimise noise?

Yes No

Refer to EPA's '*Handbook for Pollution Avoidance on Building Sites*' pages 30-31.

Final checklist to ensure builders and contractors ensure these conditions are met:

- Ensure written permission is arranged through local council prior to recycling waste bin being placed on the road or footpath.
- Make sure that the footpath, the area of land between the kerb and the property alignment, including the crossover, is not used for storing building materials, pallets, sand, soil or other materials.
- Ensure any soil or material dragged onto the road by vehicle tyres is cleaned up before the close of business. Save water - use a shovel and/or broom not a hose.
- Sand, gravel, soil and clay are not to be deposited or discharged to waters, roads or stormwater system. These stockpiles are to be contained in an area onsite.
- Ensure no rubbish, sawdust, paint (or associated paint materials), building, construction or demolition waste is discharged/deposited on roads or street gutters, including locations where it is reasonably likely to be carried by wind or runoff to roads or street gutters.
- Keep sand, soil or any other material away from roads, street gutters, footpaths or council land.
- Wastewater from painting, cutting bricks (or the like), mixing concrete, tools, equipment, machinery washing is to be contained and not discharged or deposited accidentally or deliberately into the stormwater system.
- The rights and comfort of neighbours is respected at all times relating to noise and dust control and parking of vehicles. Why not speak to neighbours before starting to build?

Please contact KESAB on (08) 8234 7255 for Clean Site information, the EPA on (08) 8204 2004 for '*Pollution Avoidance on Commercial & Residential Building Sites*' handbooks, your local council or industry Association for further assistance.