

Considerate Contractor Advice Note

Guidelines for good site practice

Construction and demolition works are usually noisy and can take place in areas which are normally quiet. Although the work may not last long, the disturbance caused by noise and dust and other issues may lead to problems for people who live and work near the site. The Council often receives complaints from people about this disturbance.

It is in everyone's interests to try to foresee any problems which could arise and plan ways to avoid them. Contractors should obtain a copy of British Standard 5228 which is a Code of Practice containing information and procedures for noise control on construction and open sites. Copies can be obtained from the Office of Public Sector Information or via any good bookshop.

- Give neighbours who may be affected by particular operations at least 48 hours notice.
- Keep normal working hours between 7.30 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays. There should be no Sunday or Bank Holiday working, which causes disturbance, as far as possible.
- Select the quietest suitable plant and equipment and keep it properly maintained and observe safe working practices.
- Make sure that all sub-contractors are told to carry out their work in compliance with agreed guidelines on noise and dust and other matters.
- For long term and complex projects, arrange for detailed liaison with the local community, through structured meetings with residents.
- Avoid the need to park on the street by providing on-site parking wherever possible.
- Inform the Environmental Protection Section where your activities might be expected to cause disturbance. Care must be taken to avoid damage to neighbouring properties. Detailed law exists on this.
- Sites should be surveyed for the presence of asbestos-containing materials by a competent person. Detailed law exists on working with and disposal of such material.

- Keep the public footpaths and highways in a clean and tidy state.
- DO NOT light bonfires; the penalties can be severe.
- Take all reasonably practicable steps to prevent noise and dust from causing nuisance.
- Ensure that any particularly noisy operations are carried out within the above times.
- Do not allow the use of radios on the site in circumstances where it would cause disturbance.

The Law

Contractors and sub-contractors should bear in mind that the Council has extensive powers to control noise and other nuisance from building sites under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 if informal action fails to solve any problems. This can involve prescribing working hours and methods.

The above guidelines may be adapted to suit most conditions and cover the main issues that lead to complaints.

For major construction programmes or if you would like further advice and information please contact the Environmental Protection Section at an early stage.

Free Internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries

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