

The importance of an effective waste management solution

Waste management is always a challenge for businesses, no matter if you're a new business owner or experienced.

Waste that's thrown away by businesses can accumulate the cost of 4.5% of a company's turnover according to CIPS, and in some extreme cases, can accumulate 10% of a business's gross profit.

If a business hasn't implemented an appropriate way to dispose of their waste, then these costs can impact them. With rising landfill taxes, as well as recycling and sustainability becoming a main concern within ethical business principles, creating a reliable waste management solution is more important than ever for any forward-thinking business that is looking to make a change.

Together with providers of 8 yard skips and outsourced waste solutions [Reconomy](#), we advise on how your business can dispose of its waste properly, and how to put in place an effective waste management strategy that can save money.

Company Responsibilities

As required by the UK legislation and government, businesses have a key responsibility to dispose their waste in the proper manner.

The requirements that need to be met follow:

- Adopt the [Waste Hierarchy](#) principles in order to keep waste to a minimum by preventing, reusing, recycling, and recovering waste where possible.
- Store or sort waste securely in a safe environment.
- Complete a waste transfer note for each load of waste that leaves the premises.
- Check to establish whether your waste carrier is registered. This can be done by visiting the official [Environment Agency](#) website.
- Do not let your waste carrier dispose of waste illegally. As a producer of waste, the legal responsibility for safe and correct disposal falls on you, and not the waste carrier. You have a responsibility to ensure safe disposal through an auditable document trail.

Arranging your waste and storing it

For waste to be stored safely and securely, businesses are required as standard to:

- Use suitable and EU-approved containers to prevent leakage.
- Label containers in a way which clearly stipulates what type of waste they contain.
- Use waterproof covers — where appropriate — so that no contaminated run-offs are created.
- Use lockable containers to safeguard your waste.

Disposing your business waste

In order to remove non-hazardous waste from your premises, you will need a waste transfer note, or a document containing the same information such as an invoice. You should register online with the appropriate services if you wish to fill in a waste transfer note, or you can create a season ticket for a series of loads that will occur in the future.

Your business as well as the third party who collects your waste, will both need to do the follow:

- Fill in the sections of the note that applies to them.
- Sign it.
- Keep a copy for two years.
- Be able to present it to an enforcement officer from the local council or the Environment Agency, if requested.

Reduce the cost of your waste

The aim of most businesses is to reduce their disposal cost of the waste they produce. However, this can be a leap the dark if business owners are uncertain on how to do this effectively.

Segregation is the solution – However, in order to do this, it needs to be monitored and a report must be conducted to see the volume, material and cost of the waste. From this you can set your strategy, highlighting your own targets and goals to ensure the best results possible when it comes to disposal.

It's important for a business to be aware of TEEP – technically, environmentally and economically practicable. This determines whether a business should segregate and store various types of produced waste within the business premises prior to its collection by a waste management contractor you have teamed up with.

As part of the EU legislation that was introduced in 2015, which will likely be adopted by Britain following Brexit, the EU Waste Framework addresses that commercial and municipal waste producers are expected to manage their waste correctly. They can use a third party to achieve this, but businesses will continue to remain responsible.

Businesses need to separate their waste for many reasons and one which stands with the highest ethical standard, is whether there will be an environmental benefit or reduce a negative that currently exists.

Measure your company's waste disposal

With technology advancement, waste management companies are likely to use online automated system to help monitor your business waste volumes and spend - giving clients a greater insight to their overall business waste plan. Through waste management portals, each business can have tailored permissions that help provide them with an overview of waste statistics and management information.

Before going down the route of using a waste management contractor, test the waters of how much waste your business produces as it might be worth assessing how much waste your organization is disposing of on a regular basis, monitor closely the bins over the week and see how full it they become before the collection date.

It may be beneficial for businesses to reduce the amount of waste collections that they currently have and from this, they can set a target for themselves to be more thoughtful with what they throw away and this will eventually lead them to making better decisions and, in the end, save money. They will have to deal with the limited bin space they have for waste ensuring that every decision is important.

These kind of evaluations will be crucial when producing a waste management solution, especially with the price of landfill tax rapidly rising. On the 1st of April 2014, the cost per tonne of landfill was priced at £80, which increased to £84.40 on the 1st of April 2016, and the price is set to

rise further to £88.95 from the 1st of April 2018. With the cost of landfill waste rising year on year, it's clear that businesses need to ensure that their waste solution system is driven towards recyclable methods to keep the costs of landfill waste to a minimum.

Sources

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