

# An Environmental Checklist for Builders

This environmental checklist has been prepared to help you find out if you are doing the right thing in relation to the environment. The questions are designed to help you think about the various aspects of your work that could be having an effect on the environment and to give you some ideas on how you could improve your environmental performance.

Use the information in this package to get started on an environmental program. Contact your local council, industry association or the EPA if you would like more information.

If you answer NO to any of these questions you could be harming the environment, breaking the law and leaving yourself vulnerable to fines and prosecution under environmental legislation.

## CAN YOU ANSWER YES TO THESE QUESTIONS?

### Erosion and sediment management

Do you have a soil and water management plan for your site?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you know how to install and maintain the erosion and sediment control measures in the soil and water management plan?

Yes  No  N/A

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

Yes  No  N/A

Are the stormwater drains around your site free of pollution (litter, soil, building materials, etc.)?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you have a kerbside turf strip to slow the speed of water and trap sediment?

Yes  No  N/A

Are stockpiles surrounded by a sediment fence on the downslope side?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you have and use a designated washout area that is isolated from stormwater drains?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you protect all drains with sediment traps that are appropriately sized for the stormwater flow and sediment load?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you check and maintain your erosion and sediment control measures every day?

Yes  No  N/A

Have you retained trees and vegetation and protected them from being damaged?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you have a single access point that is stabilised to prevent tracking of sediment onto the road, footpath and gutters?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you sweep and shovel all soil, earth, mud, clay and concrete waste from sealed areas every day?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you connect downpipes to the stormwater system as soon as roofing is completed?

Yes  No  N/A

### Waste management

Do you have and follow a waste minimisation plan?

Yes  No  N/A

Is your waste in an area where it cannot contaminate or pollute the stormwater drains if it rains or if there is a storm?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you separate any of your wastes (items for reuse, return, recycling)?

Yes  No  N/A

Does your site use hand-trigger hoses to stop water wastage?

Yes  No  N/A

### Hazardous materials

Do you clean up all spills immediately?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you avoid the use of chemicals that could harm your health?

Yes  No  N/A

Are you aware of the correct procedures for removing lead paint and asbestos?

Yes  No  N/A

## Air quality management

Are you aware of and do you try to stop dust, spray and fumes from your site?

Yes  No  N/A

## Noise management

Are you aware of the effects of noise on your neighbours?

Yes  No  N/A

Are you taking steps to minimise noise?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you regularly check and maintain noisy equipment (e.g. compressors, grinders and generators)?

Yes  No  N/A

## Site management

Have you made any changes in your building procedures for environmental reasons?

Yes  No  N/A

Do you plan your site before starting – for access, deliveries, construction areas, waste, stockpiles to minimise waste, and water, air and noise pollution?

Yes  No  N/A

Are your customers aware of your commitment to improving the environment?

Yes  No  N/A

Now that you have completed this checklist and identified the areas where you can make improvements:

- Read through the environmental information sheets.
- Get started on an environmental improvement program that will be good for you, your staff and your customers.

**THANK YOU FOR CARING  
ABOUT THE  
ENVIRONMENT!**

