No. 8  WASTE MANAGEMENT – REDUCE / RE-USE / RECYCLE

**WHAT?**  The construction industry generates a vast quantity of waste per year and includes many tonnes of unused construction materials being thrown away.

To minimise waste we must:

Firstly **Eliminate** the waste if we can, secondly **Reduce** the waste we create then **Reuse** materials until we can’t use them again and only then **Recycle** the waste. Only if we can’t recycle can we finally **Dispose** of the waste to landfill.

**WHY?**
- **Avoid environmental harm:** Reduction, reuse and re-cycling of waste minimises the environmental impacts of disposal of waste to landfill.
- **Reduce costs:** The true cost of waste is more than just the disposal cost and is made up of:
  - the original purchase price of the material
  - the cost of unloading, handling, storage and transporting the material around site
  - the cost of collecting the waste/damaged material, reloading, moving and storing waste on site
  - the cost of transporting waste to a tip, the tipping charges and landfill taxes
  - the purchase price of replacing damaged and wasted materials.

**DO**
- **Eliminate** unnecessary wastage by storing materials neatly on flat solid ground to avoid damage and loss.
- **Reduce** the amount of waste you create on site. Keep materials in their packaging for as long as possible to protect them from damage.
- Keep significant off-cuts for use elsewhere.
- **Reuse** materials until no longer fit for purpose, for example, shuttering, fencing.
- Then reuse materials for alternative purposes for example, use old shuttering ply for hoardings.
- **Recycle** materials whenever possible.
- Segregate waste on site into different types.
- Store waste in the appropriate skip or container until removed from site.

**DON’T**
- **DON’T** put waste materials into the wrong waste container.
- **DON’T** open new cans or pallets before the ones in use are empty.
- **DON’T** leave materials unprotected and where they are likely to be damaged by, for example, rain or mud.
- **DON’T** burn or bury waste – it’s illegal.
- **DON’T** mix different types of waste – it prevents recycling.