

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

### WHAT?

The construction industry generates over 70 million tonnes of waste per year and it is estimated that this total includes 13 million tonnes of construction materials thrown away unused

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 or 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 offcuts 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

