Considerate Contractors 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, 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 that could arise and plan ways to avoid them.

Contractors should obtain a copy of British Standard 5228¹, which is an approved Code of Practice² for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites.

Contractors and Sub-Contractors should bear in mind that the council has powers to control noise and other nuisance from building sites under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 or Environmental Protection Act 1990 if informal action fails to solve any problems. This can involve prescribing working hours and methods. Other legislation is also applicable.

Please inform Environmental Health if your activities could cause disturbance.
For major construction programmes or if you would like further advice and information please contact the Environmental Health Service at an early stage.

Guidelines
All sites are different the guidelines below that may be adapted to suit most conditions and cover the main issues that often lead to complaints.

- Give neighbours who may be affected by particular operations at least 48 hours’ notice.
- Keep normal working hours between 7.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. There should be no Sunday or Bank Holiday working.
- Ensure that any particularly noisy operations are carried out within the above times.
- Do not allow the use of radios on the site if it could cause disturbance.
- Select the quietest suitable plant and equipment, keep it properly maintained and observe safe working practices.
- Take all reasonably practicable steps to prevent noise and dust from causing nuisance.
- Make sure that all sub-contractors carry out their work in compliance with agreed guidelines on noise and dust and other matters.
- For long term and complex projects, arrange appropriate liaison with the local community, through structured meetings with residents.
- Avoid parking on the street by providing on-site parking wherever possible.
- Keep the public footpaths and highways in a clean and tidy state.
- Take care to avoid damage to neighbours property.
- Survey sites for the presence of asbestos-containing materials by a competent person. Detailed law exists on working with and disposal of asbestos-containing material.
- DO NOT light bonfires; the penalties are severe and the exemptions are very restricted.

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¹ BSI shop website at https://shop.bsigroup.com/ or can be obtained in person or by post from the Customer Services Sales Department at the British Standards Institution, BSI, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 4AL, telephone 020 8996 9001.