A SIMPLE GUIDE TO DUTY OF CARE
FOR AGRICULTURAL WASTE
Since 1990, there have been regulations in place that have made it a responsibility of “any commercial activity” - whether run from home or its own premises - to manage the waste it produces, stores, or disposes of, safely and responsibly.

Duty of care applies to everyone who produces or manages waste.

Your duty of care starts from the moment you produce the waste. It continues even when you give it to a licensed waste business to deal with, until it is recovered or disposed of.

You’re still responsible to check how that business deals with your waste and if you suspect it’s not following the duty of care you should report it by calling the Environment Agency hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24-hour service).

What is agricultural waste?
Agricultural waste is waste produced at premises as a result of an agricultural activity, including land used for livestock breeding, dairy farming, fruit and seed growing, the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, market gardens and nursery grounds.

WHAT IS MY DUTY OF CARE?

WHEN DOES DUTY OF CARE APPLY?

COMMON AGRICULTURAL WASTE

ANIMAL WASTE
e.g. from dairy, meat production and livestock breeding

CHEMICALS
e.g. pesticides and fertiliser

MACHINERY WASTE
e.g. oil, batteries, tyres and machinery

ANIMAL HEALTH WASTE
e.g. sheep dip, unused medicines, syringes & needles, dressings & swabs

PACKAGING
e.g. feed bags, pesticide containers, fertiliser bags

NON PACKAGING PLASTICS
e.g. silage films, bale twine and other plastics

BUILDING WASTE
e.g. general C&D waste, metal and plastic

Some waste may also be hazardous if it is harmful to humans or the environment, e.g. asbestos, chemicals, batteries, pesticides and mineral oils.

HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT I DISPOSE OF MY WASTE RESPONSIBLY?

1. Make sure that people who collect your waste are registered waste carriers. Ask for their waste carrier number and a receipt which includes the business address. You can phone 03708 506 506 to check their status.

2. Check the paperwork – is the Waste Transfer Note or consignment note completed correctly?

3. Ask your local authority if they have facilities to receive your waste and if there will be a charge.

4. Arrange collection of difficult items by a waste management company or your local authority.

5. Donate unwanted goods such as clothes, household goods and serviceable furniture to charity or local community furniture projects. Some charities even offer a collection service.
WHO DOES DUTY OF CARE APPLY TO?

It applies to everyone who produces or manages waste.

For each piece of non-hazardous waste you move off your premises, it is a legal requirement to have a waste transfer note or document; usually in the form of a Waste Transfer Note for non-hazardous waste and a Consignment Note for hazardous waste.

WASTE WITH THE FOLLOWING SYMBOL IS HAZARDOUS

DOES IT HAVE A DESCRIPTION OR SYMBOL on the goods?

CHECK the relevant need to know guide

ASK THE SUPPLIER of the goods

CHECK THE GUIDANCE
www.gov.uk/dispose-hazardous-waste/overview

If your waste is hazardous then it needs to be dealt with by a specialist waste company. Remember, don’t mix hazardous and non-hazardous wastes together!

IF YOUR WASTE IS NON-HAZARDOUS, CAN IT BE...

RE-USED?
Could you sell, donate or swap your unwanted items?

REPAIRED?
Search the internet for local repair services or contact your local council.

RE-USED?
Is it part of your waste contractor’s normal recycling service? If not, contact them to find out how else they can help.

If not, it needs to be disposed of correctly.
HOW DO I STORE IT BEFORE COLLECTION?

ENSURE
it’s stored and labeled properly so nothing can escape such as litter, liquids or odour.

PREVENT ACCESS
if required eg hygiene waste, liquid waste or hazardous waste.

IF IN DOUBT
ask your waste contractor first, then your Environment Agency office or local authority.

IN SPECIALISED CONTAINERS
if required eg hygiene waste, liquid waste or hazardous waste.

DON’T GET DUMPED ON - BRINGING WASTES ON TO FARMS
Don’t become a victim: illegal waste operators may use your land to store waste and then abandon it, leaving you to pay to clear the waste and potentially with contaminated land.

Don’t become a criminal: Farmers also need to be aware of waste regulations when bringing waste materials onto their farms. Depositing or spreading unsuitable materials onto farmland without the necessary permissions could leave you with expensive clean-up costs, or even facing prosecution.

FLY-TIPPING

Fly-tipping affects 1/3 of farmers

Fly-tipping is estimated to cost private land owners up to £150 million each year.

Clearance costs per incident of fly-tipping in the farming community ranged from £10 to £1200 in 2011-12, with an average disposal cost of £170. Agricultural landowners often have to pay for the disposal of fly-tipped waste even when they are the victim of fly-tipping, through no fault of their own and despite doing all they can to make fly-tipping on their land harder.

The National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group (NFTP) have a number of resources that land managers might find helpful – in reducing access to their land for would be fly-tippers. http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTP-Files/NFTPAdviceForLandowners.pdf

CLEARANCE COSTS OF FLYTIPPING IN THE FARMING COMMUNITY 2011-12

£10 ➞ £1,200

£170

average disposal cost

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Visit: www.rightwasterightplace.com
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Email: info@rightwasterightplace.com