



Best Practice Waste Management

Sheet 53.0a

Farm Plastic Waste Management

Why change?

Farm plastic when not stored and disposed of properly, quickly becomes a problem. It escapes into the environment, enters rivers, has the potential to affect soil health, becomes a risk to livestock and wildlife and is a highly visible indicator as to how a farm is managed.

Agricultural Waste, including farm plastics is classed as business waste and requires specific management.

There is a legal duty of care to safely store and dispose of all waste, including plastics.

If you are part of a farm assurance or stewardship scheme, or plan to be part of one, a key requirement is that you can prove legal compliance to all waste disposal.

Keeping waste tidy and stored securely is one of the ways to discourage fly-tipping on your land.



A common sight in the countryside

Steps to Success

1. Review what plastic you are using (reducing and reusing materials saves money), the plastic waste you are generating, and how you manage it. The simplest way to do so is to look at what you are purchasing over the year and add it up. Things to consider include:

- a. Silage and Bale Wraps
- b. Sheeting- cling and heavy duty
- c. Plastic net and bale string
- d. IBCs | Drums | Buckets
- e. Fertilizer and feed dumpy bags and sacks

2. Develop an action plan to manage it better. Disposal and recycling costs normally increase with weight so you should be aiming to keep it dry with minimal soiling, segregated by type and contained so it cannot escape. You also need to make sure you collect and store the plastic as it is produced, ensuring it keeps clean and dry.

3. Implement your action plan including thinking through your storage area. It needs to be covered, with a hard standing to keep things dry and clean. Store each plastic type together. For example, you could use smooth fertiliser inner sacks to collect bale wrap and old sheeting.

4. Disposal: You will need to dispose of your plastic on a regular basis. If your waste is collected remember whoever takes it needs to be a registered waste collector. If you regularly deliver your own waste to an authorised collection site you must register (no charge) with the Environment Agency as a lower-tier waste carrier.

Typically, an 800-acre farm would produce 1.5 tonnes of plastic waste each year. The vast majority can be recycled. Of this, circa 40% could be bale wrap/net; 20% bale string, 15% fertilizer bags, 15% sheeting. (Individual farms will vary) .

Advice on how to manage your plastic waste

Legal disposal - it is your responsibility

• Give your waste to a registered waste carrier - if a person cannot prove that they are authorised to take your waste you must not give it to them.

Use the EA database to check:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>.

• You must identify and classify your waste, using a waste classification code, before you send it for recycling or disposal.

• Keep copies of the waste transfer notes for at least two years describing what has been moved, dated and signed by you and the waste carrier.

Storing your waste - top tips



Storing wrap for recycling collection

- store waste in a secure place
- use suitable containers that will stop waste escaping
- label containers clearly with the type of waste they contain
- use covers to stop waste blowing away
- use waterproof covers if rain could cause contaminated run-off or prevent the waste from being reused

Business Name 1 Waste Lane, Wasteville, W8 STE	Waste Transfer No. 00000
Tel: 00000 000000	DUTY OF CARE WASTE TRANSFER NOTE
Fax: 00000 000000	
Email: xxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.co.uk	
Description of waste The waste being transferred	A2 How is the waste contained? Loose <input type="checkbox"/> Sacks <input type="checkbox"/> Skip <input type="checkbox"/> Drum <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Classification code(s)	A3 How much waste? For example, number of sacks, weight
Current holder of the waste – Transferor I confirm that I have fulfilled my duty to apply the waste hierarchy as required by Regulation 12 (land and Wales) Regulations 2011 Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	B3 Are you: The producer of the waste? <input type="checkbox"/> The importer of the waste? <input type="checkbox"/> The local authority? <input type="checkbox"/>
Postcode	
Address	

Waste Transfer Note

Remember

- Keep your waste plastic clean, dry, sorted and contained to keep costs down
- Burning, burying and long-term storage of plastic waste on site is illegal
- It is your legal responsibility to manage your waste and is disposed of properly
- There are numerous requirements - for more information ask your farm advisor, or visit <https://gov.uk/guidance/manage-waste-on-land-guidance-for-land-managers>.