



# Air quality and nuisances

Your site activities can impact your neighbours in various ways. If your actions cause a nuisance or lead to complaints from the local community, the environmental health department of the local authority may take steps to limit your operations.

This guidance note explains how to reduce the impacts of nuisances, including:

- Dust
- Smoke and fumes
- Noise and vibrations
- Light

## Dust

- In dry weather damp down haul roads and stockpiles
- Reduce the speed of vehicles on site
- Make sure all vehicles and skips leaving the site are covered
- Use wheel-washing facilities on exits to public roads and keep public roads clear using road sweepers
- Damp down dust from demolition activities and consider wind direction and the possible effects on neighbours

## Smoke and fumes

- Do not burn waste materials on site – sites may be able to apply for an exemption from waste management licensing to burn certain waste plant tissue and untreated wood, if you burn no more than 10 tonnes in a 24-hour period in the place where it is produced
- Avoid idling vehicles or machinery – turn off when not in use
- Consider wind direction if using materials which produce odours such as paint or tar
- Avoid having generators running constantly – connect to the mains supply when possible, and if not consider a hybrid generator
- Ensure generators are placed at a safe and appropriate distance from existing residences whenever possible
- When using materials which can cause fumes/odours, containers should be kept lidded when not in use





## Noise and vibration

- Use solid panel fencing around the site to screen the sources of noise
- Service vehicles and machinery regularly to produce less noise
- Fit baffles or silencers to machinery and switch off when not in use
- Consider noise output when buying new equipment
- Ensure generators are placed at a safe and appropriate distance from existing residences whenever possible
- Minimise reversing alarms by using a one-way vehicle system - if not possible, use white noise alarms, which are less intrusive and more directional
- Consider the hours of operation and whether this may impact neighbours - avoid noisy works when people are more likely to be at home or in their gardens (evenings and weekends)

## Light

- Position lights so you only need to use the minimum number of lights
- Dim or switch off lights when they are not required
- Use baffles, shields and louvres to reduce obtrusive light
- Use lights that switch off automatically when natural light is available or when they are not required, for example using motion detectors

# Air quality and nuisance

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## Other guidance notes within this series:

- Silt management
- Surface water management
- Cement, concrete and grout
- Waste duty of care
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Fuels and oils
- Decarbonisation on site
- Materials sourcing and management

Scan the QR code to view the guidance notes and associated animations on the NetRegs website



## Further information

### Air quality and nuisance guidance on NetRegs



Scan (or click) the QR code to view the nuisances guidance on the NetRegs website.

These guidance notes have been developed by NetRegs in partnership with:

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