

## **SWMP - Site Waste Management Plan**

### New regulations to manage site waste for the construction industry

New regulations coming into force in April 2008 mean that any construction project in England costing over £300,000 (be it for new build, maintenance, alteration or installation/removal of services such as sewerage, water) will need a SWMP. (Although smaller projects do not legally require a SWMP, they could reduce both resource use and cost by having one).

A SWMP sets out how building materials, and resulting waste, is to be managed during the project. The SWMP's purpose is to ensure that building materials are managed efficiently, waste is disposed of legally, and that material recycling, reuse and recovery is maximised.

It is the clients underlying responsibility to ensure the SWMP is written, followed, and updated during the project. Although the plan needs to be written at the construction design stage, it is a requirement of the SWMP regulations to maintain it during the whole project. Therefore, the client (or principal contractor) is also responsible for updating the plan with the sites day to day activity.

There will be two types of SWMP depending on the cost of the project. A project costing between £300 - £500,000 will follow a simpler template, while anything over £500k will require much more detail.

The SWMP regulations are intended to be self regulated. The onus is on the client (or principal contractor) to ensure the SWMP meets its regulatory requirements. They must also ensure all those involved in the project acts in accordance with the plan and current waste legislation.