

# Running a small construction site?

## What you need to know as a busy builder

### Want to run a successful construction site?

These are the essential health and safety top tips you should follow if you run a construction site, even if you don't directly employ the people working there.

- Keep your site clean and tidy, with clear space for people to work in.
- Keep people, including the public, away from danger – fence the site off and use signs to warn people.
- Make sure structures, such as walls, are kept safe, and demolition work is properly planned and workers know what to do.
- Use only 110 volt or battery-operated portable tools and safe electrical supplies.
- Make sure trenches and excavations don't collapse and ensure people cannot fall into them.
- Make sure workers cannot fall from height – working from ladders is allowed only as a last resort.

- Provide welfare facilities on site or close by – see the 'Welfare facilities' information sheet.
- Make sure the people on your site are trained to do the work safely.

This is just a summary – you can find out what else you need to know about health and safety by visiting [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm)

### What can happen if health and safety is ignored?

*A young worker with no training or instruction was left unsupervised to demolish a high wall known to be unsafe. The young worker was killed when the wall collapsed on him. The builder was convicted of manslaughter and sent to prison for three years.*

See over for examples of good practice...

## Unacceptable



## Good example



## Further information

For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline  
Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566  
Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: [hse.infoline@natbrit.com](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com)  
or write to HSE Information Services, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 3GG.

**This document contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.**

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