

# Have we got it right on Waste and Recycling?

We are all aware of our responsibilities under the latest waste regulations...or are we?

## David Mears reports

The Hazardous Waste Regulations came into effect in July 2005 and required all producers of Hazardous Waste to register with the Environment Agency (EA). We will assume that all concerned will have registered and obtained their 'Premises Code' and that you are renewing registrations annually. Your waste management company, on your behalf, often does this.

If your business produces Hazardous Waste (and every greenkeeping/grounds maintenance department does), you also have a 'Duty of Care' to ensure that it is properly disposed of. This means selecting a waste management company you know you can trust, who will operate your service efficiently with trained personnel, providing correct and approved waste containers, audit trails and full certification and Consignment Notes. (Consignment Notes must accompany hazardous waste when it is removed from your premises. The responsibility for ensuring Part A and B of these notes are completed correctly, rests with you). You may prefer, as most do, to allow your waste management provider to complete the documentation for you.

categories of EEE included in Schedule 1 of this legislation, covering among others; toys, IT equipment, household appliances and lighting. The list of products under each category is huge but examples include; TV's and monitors, computers, fridges, microwaves, radios and phones, printers, and fax machines. The Act and the schedule in full can be seen at [www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2006/uksi\\_20063289\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2006/uksi_20063289_en.pdf) see this link for further information regarding hazardous waste: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1019330/1217981/](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1019330/1217981/)

It may be an idea to review your current waste disposal arrangements to satisfy yourself that you are meeting your 'Duty of Care' requirements and fully complying with legal demands. The following nine-point check list may prove helpful:

1. Are we registered with the EA as producers of Hazardous Waste and know our premises code?
2. Is my waste service provider fully licensed and do they operate the service themselves?
3. Does my waste service provider have recycling facilities or take my waste to be recycled or does my waste go mainly to landfill and/or incineration?
4. Does my waste service provider supply us with five 200 litre UN approved containers, properly labelled for:
  - Waste oil,
  - Waste chemical packaging,
  - Waste filters,
  - Waste aerosols,
  - Workshop waste. (Remember hazardous waste can no longer be mixed)
5. Are my containers changed for clean ones at each collection?
6. Do I have a dated certificate from my waste service provider showing their EA registration number?
7. Is my waste service provider happy to collect and replace any or all of my containers frequently, or am I made to wait until I have accumulated too much waste? (Some will not take away less than 600 litres of waste oil for example)
8. What annual fee am I paying and is this value for money?
9. Is my waste service provider able to collect WEEE items and arrange other "one off" special collections of tyres or fluorescent tubes for example?

Recycling? Responsible operators will recycle, as does my own company, for example, recycling over 90% of the waste we collect. One example is the many thousands of plastic containers that are processed in a huge machine that chops the product into small plastic chips that then go on



Correct disposal of chemical packaging.

to be moulded into useful rot-proof items such as fence posts, seating, sleepers etc, that can be used on golf courses and at leisure and amenity sites.

It is important to recycle as much as possible and reduce dramatically as much landfill as is possible. Metals, plastics, paper, oil and more can all be recycled. Landfill costs are rising fast and, as a result, some waste operators are reducing the number of collections and/or putting up their prices! Apart from hazardous waste, which must be handled by the experts, many items from around the course can be composted rather than treated as waste. Twigs, small branches, grass clippings, cardboard (the pro's shop has vast quantities!), leaves and green kitchen waste can be processed in an appropriate machine to produce windrows. The way forward for us all is to take environmental responsibilities seriously and actively seek ways to reduce waste and recycle, protecting our children's and grandchildren's inheritance.

David Mears is Joint Managing Director of Course Care who operate a licensed Waste Transfer Station (licence no. EAWML/65417) offering national waste management services, with recycling and a range of Compost Makers. Websites: [www.course-care.co.uk](http://www.course-care.co.uk) & [www.waste-away.org](http://www.waste-away.org)



Course Care 5 cubic metre compost maker.

With the introduction of the Hazardous Waste Regulations came the introduction of items not included in the previous regulations (Special Waste Regulations) and those incorporated in the European Waste Catalogue (Hazardous Waste is defined on the basis of this list) and these include, for example; fluorescent tubes, batteries, aerosols, paints, varnishes and solvents, waste oils (including biodegradable and synthetic) and fuels, end of life tyres, CFC's and electronic items. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 (WEEE) is due for implementation on July 1 of this year and a number of responsible waste management companies have prepared for this, some already operating collection services. There are 10

