Farm Plastic Waste Management

Advice on how to manage your plastic waste

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.
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:

- Silage and bale wraps
- Sheeting such as thin cling films and heavy duty
- Plastic net and bale string
- IBCs, drums, feed and lick buckets
- Fertiliser and feed dumpy bags and sacks
- Pesticide, herbicide and other chemical containers
- Tyres.

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. Remember that containers with hazardous residues need cleaning and the residues disposing of properly (not to the ground/water courses).

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, and 15% sheeting.
(Individual farms will vary) .

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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 in this link to **Check Waste 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.

BUSINESS LOGO HERE

Business Name
1 Waste Lane, Wasteville, W8 STE
Tel: 00000 000000
Fax: 00000 000000
Email: xxxx@xxxxxxxx.co.uk

Waste Transfer No.
00000
DUTY OF CARE
WASTE TRANSFER NOTE

Section A – Description of waste

A1 Description of the waste being transferred

List of Waste Regulations code(s)

A2 How is the waste contained?
Loose ☐ Sacks ☐ Skip ☐ Drum ☐
Other ☐

A3 How much waste? For example, number of sacks, weight

Section B – Current holder of the waste – Transferor

By signing in Section D below I confirm that I have fulfilled my duty to apply the waste hierarchy as required by Regulation 12 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 Yes ☐

B1 Full name

Company name and address

B3 Are you:
The producer of the waste? ☐
The importer of the waste? ☐
The local authority? ☐

Waste Transfer Note

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.

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 and dispose of it properly
- There are numerous requirements - for more information ask your farm advisor, or visit the link here for **Guidance for Land Managers**

Interreg France (Channel Manche) England
European Regional Development Fund

PREVENTING PLASTIC POLLUTION

Environment Agency

WESTCOUNTRY RIVERS TRUST

The Preventing Plastic Pollution project seeks to understand and reduce the impacts of plastic pollution in the marine environment.
By looking at the catchment from source to sea, the project will identify and target hotspots for plastic, embed behaviour change in local communities and businesses, and implement effective solutions and alternatives.
The Preventing Plastic Pollution project was approved by the Interreg France (Channel) England Programme, which has committed funding through the European Regional Development Fund. The project will work across seven pilot sites: Brest Harbour, Bay of Douarnenez, Bay of Veys, Poole Harbour, and the Medway, Tamar, and Great Ouse estuaries.
This advice sheet was put together by the Westcountry Rivers Trust in conjunction with the Environment Agency. It is advice only and does not absolve the reader from their legal and moral duties.