



## Spotlight on... plastics and packaging

The Considerate Constructors Scheme aims to raise awareness of important industry issues through our '**Spotlight on...**' campaigns.

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WRAP (2018)

Improving the image of construction

# Spotlight on... plastics and packaging

**'Spotlight on... plastics and packaging'** raises awareness of the impact of plastics and packaging, and provides the industry with guidance for tackling this issue.

The UK uses over 5 million tonnes of plastic every year. For decades, we have ignored the environmental risks associated with plastics and packaging. It is imperative that we take action against this global issue.

The construction industry is a significant contributor to plastic pollution. Using 23% of all plastic produced, the construction industry is the second largest consumer of plastic in the UK. With this in mind, the industry must work towards reducing its consumption of plastics and packaging to protect our environment.

An industry-wide survey conducted by the Scheme found that:

- **98%** said the over-consumption of plastics and packaging is a global issue.
- **95%** said the construction industry needs to reduce its consumption of plastics and packaging.
- **51%** said they have little understanding of the regulations surrounding plastic and packaging waste.

## How the issue is being tackled

Plastic pollution is high on the international agenda. Governments, businesses and organisations around the world are starting to introduce strategies to significantly reduce the consumption of plastics and packaging.

The construction industry in particular is responding to this environmental issue and is seeking to minimise its consumption of plastics and packaging in efforts to preserve our environment.

Some of the ways in which sites, companies and suppliers are addressing the issue include using sustainable alternatives to plastics and packaging, avoiding single-use plastics, and raising awareness of the impact of plastics and packaging on our environment and human health.

## What to do now

It is clear plastic pollution is detrimental to our environment. Let's support efforts to protect the environment and start working towards sustainability. Consider collaborating with your supply chain to use sustainable materials and make an effort to significantly reduce your consumption of plastics and packaging.

If you have examples of best practice or case studies on this issue, we would love to hear from you.

Contact the Best Practice Hub team at [enquiries@ccsbestpractice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ccsbestpractice.org.uk)