

THIS IS FACT SHEET FOUR IN A SERIES. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER FACT SHEETS ARE LISTED BELOW //

This series of fact sheets has been put together to provide targeted information on your responsibilities, as well as the responsibilities of other parties (e.g. the council, contractors, buyers and vendors of property) in managing the potential risks from contaminated land.

If you have any questions please contact your local council in the first instance (contact details provided on the rear of this brochure).

Other fact sheets in the series:

FACT SHEET 1 //

General Information

FACT SHEET 2 //

Are You Buying or Selling a Contaminated Site?

FACT SHEET 3 //

Are You About to Subdivide or Change the Landuse for a Contaminated Site?

FACT SHEET 5 //

Are You Interested In Consent Conditions for Contaminated Sites?

// FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES ON THE CLEANUP OF CONTAMINATED SITES

<http://www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/132.shtml>

MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/hazardous/contaminated

WESTERN AUSTRALIA GUIDANCE NOTE: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND CONTAMINATED SITES WORK

www.worksafe.wa.gov.au/newsite/worksafe/content/guidnotes/guidhazs0003.html



WasteMINZ and the Contaminated Land Management Sector Group would like to acknowledge the contributions from URS and Tonkin & Taylor in the production of these resources.

// CONTACT DETAILS

ARE YOU CARRYING OUT EARTHWORKS ON A CONTAMINATED SITE?

READ THIS FIRST //



ARE YOU CARRYING OUT EARTHWORKS ON A CONTAMINATED SITE?

This fact sheet has been developed to provide information to assist you in undertaking the following activities on contaminated sites:

- > Excavations/bulk earthworks/land modification
- > Ground-breaking
- > Soil disturbance

These activities present a number of potential hazards to people working and living on and around the site, and to the environment. It is important that everyone involved in the works on the site is aware of their responsibilities and understands how to protect the health of site workers, neighbours and the environment from their activities.

// RESPONSIBILITIES

AS A LANDOWNER

- > Contact the city or district council before earthworks commence – you may need to obtain resource consent for the works to ensure contaminants will be appropriately managed. You may also need to show proof that underground services (e.g. power, gas) have been located.
- > You may be considered the Principal for contractor works on the site and if so you are responsible for health and safety of contractors and the public during the works.
- > Discuss health and safety issues with contractors and tell them about any hazards you know about on the site (e.g. presence of hazardous substances, underground services).
- > Ensure appropriate disposal of contaminated soil.

AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

- > If no information is available about site contamination, carry out soil and water sampling to identify the presence of hazardous substances.
- > Complete a Site Investigation Report that is consistent with the Ministry for the Environment guidelines.
- > Prepare a remediation action plan (RAP) where earthworks will involve the excavation of contaminated soil.
- > Write a complete Health and Safety and Environment Plan (HASEP) and communicate the plan to the contractors (this may be included in the RAP).
- > Ensure that surface water bodies are identified.
- > Clearly identify items protected by planning authorities (e.g. native bush, sensitive ridgelines, coastal margins).
- > Depending on the contractual arrangements the consultant may be the Principal for the project and if so you are responsible for health and safety of contractors and the public during the works.

AS A CITY/DISTRICT OR REGIONAL COUNCIL

- > Consider if resource consents are required for the proposed earthworks.
- > Keep track of any excavation, soil disturbance, or disposal that is happening, regardless of the volume of soil.
- > Ask to see a complete RAP, HASEP and/or Site Management Plan (SMP) which details the processes to be used to protect human health and the environment during the works.
- > Provide information to the landowner on the presence of hazardous substances on the site (via a Land Information Memorandum or SMP).
- > View any investigation reports prepared by the environmental consultant to determine if the site is suitable for its proposed land use.
- > Assess if any parties are affected by a proposal and if consultation should be undertaken.

AS A CONTRACTOR

- > Check that underground services (e.g. power, gas, water, telecom) will not be compromised during the works. There are companies that can locate services – for example contact 124 for Telecom.
- > Write up safe work practices for each task (e.g. operating a digger) to identify hazards and what will be done to eliminate, isolate, or minimise the hazards to site personnel and the public – provide training to staff, for example on use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and handling of hazardous substances.
- > Have a plan to deal with discharges of contaminants to air (e.g. dust), water (e.g. runoff) and land (e.g. stockpiles of contaminated soil).
- > Have a plan to deal with incidents and emergencies (e.g. spills or fire).