Toolbox talk

Welfare facilities on site

Toilets, washing, water and somewhere decent to rest

10 minutes | For: Everyone on site, supervisors and site managers

Why it matters

Clean toilets, washing facilities, drinking water and a warm place to eat aren't extras. The law says they must be in place on every construction site, from the start of the job to the end. Good welfare also helps stop dermatitis and the spread of harmful substances.

Key points

1. Welfare must be in place from the start of the project until it finishes.
2. Toilets must be suitable and sufficient, lit, ventilated and kept clean.
3. Washing facilities need clean hot and cold, or warm, water, plus soap and a way to dry your hands.
4. Washing facilities should be near the toilets and changing areas.
5. There must be enough clean drinking water, with cups unless it's a drinking fountain.
6. Rest areas need tables, seats with backs, a way to boil water, and a way to prepare and eat meals.
7. Where you change into work clothes, there should be changing rooms and somewhere to dry and store clothing.
8. Shared facilities like a café only count if the owner agrees and they're always available, clean and stocked.

Sources: HSE: Welfare on construction sites; CDM Regulations 2015, Schedule 2: welfare facilities; HSE: Cement.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/welfare**

Toolbox talk

Welfare facilities on site

Do

- Wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking.
- Leave toilets and welfare areas as clean as you'd want to find them.
- Report anything that's run out or broken, like soap, water or heating.
- Use the rest area for breaks, especially in hot or cold weather.
- Keep work clothes and personal clothes apart if you work with harmful substances.

Don't

- Don't eat in areas where hazardous substances or dust are around.
- Don't store materials or tools in welfare areas.
- Don't put up with missing facilities. Tell your supervisor.
- Don't take contaminated clothing into the rest area or home.

Ask the group

- Is there anything missing or not working in our welfare facilities?
- Where can we wash off cement or chemicals properly on this site?
- Is the rest area warm enough and big enough for everyone?
- Who do we tell when soap, water or paper towels run out?

If it goes wrong: If welfare facilities are missing, broken or out of supplies, tell your supervisor straight away. If it isn't sorted, raise it with the principal contractor or site manager. Welfare is a legal requirement on every construction site.

On this site

Nearest first aider _____ Emergency assembly point _____

Site-specific hazards and controls _____

_____

Scan for the latest version of this talk online ›

Go further: Site inductions: what to cover

Sources: HSE: Welfare on construction sites; CDM Regulations 2015, Schedule 2: welfare facilities; HSE: Cement.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/welfare**

Attendance register

Welfare facilities on site

Site / project _____ Date and time _____

Presented by _____ Company _____

	Name (print)	Company	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			

By signing, attendees confirm they took part in this toolbox talk and understood the key points. Keep this record with your site safety file.

Presenter signature _____ Follow-up actions _____

Scan for the latest version of this talk online ›

Go further: Site inductions: what to cover

Sources: HSE: Welfare on construction sites; CDM Regulations 2015, Schedule 2: welfare facilities; HSE: Cement.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/welfare**

Quick check

Welfare facilities on site

Tick one answer for each question. Your presenter has the answers.

Name _____ Date _____

1. When must welfare facilities be in place?

- [ ] After the first month
- [ ] From the start of the project until it finishes
- [ ] Only in winter

2. What water must washing facilities have?

- [ ] Cold only
- [ ] Clean hot and cold, or warm, water
- [ ] Any water

3. What must rest areas include?

- [ ] Tables, seats with backs and a way to boil water
- [ ] Just a roof
- [ ] A TV

4. Can you use a nearby café's toilets instead?

- [ ] Yes, if the owner agrees and they're always available, clean and stocked
- [ ] Yes, always
- [ ] Never

5. Why does washing matter for health?

- [ ] It helps stop dermatitis and harmful substances spreading
- [ ] It doesn't
- [ ] Only for looks

Sources: HSE: Welfare on construction sites; CDM Regulations 2015, Schedule 2: welfare facilities; HSE: Cement.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/welfare**

For the presenter

Answers and sources

Quick check answers

1. From the start of the project until it finishes

HSE says welfare must be provided from the start of the project until it finishes.

2. Clean hot and cold, or warm, water

CDM 2015 Schedule 2 requires clean hot and cold, or warm, water, plus soap and drying.

3. Tables, seats with backs and a way to boil water

Schedule 2 requires enough tables and seating with backs, and a way to prepare meals and boil water.

4. Yes, if the owner agrees and they're always available, clean and stocked

HSE says shared facilities only count if agreed and available all the time workers are on site.

5. It helps stop dermatitis and harmful substances spreading

Washing off cement and chemicals quickly helps prevent skin problems and stops contamination reaching food.

Sources

- HSE: Welfare on construction sites
  https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/welfare/index.htm
- CDM Regulations 2015, Schedule 2: welfare facilities
  https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/51/schedule/2
- HSE: Cement
  https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hazardous-substances/cement.htm

> **Presenting tips:** keep it to about 10 minutes, use real examples from your site, ask the group questions rather than reading everything out, and record attendance on the register.

This talk supports, but does not replace, your site-specific risk assessment, method statement, training and supervision. Free to copy and use. **tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks/welfare**

Clean hands. Clean welfare. Clean break.

1. **Wash before you eat**
2. **Keep welfare clean and tidy**
3. **Report anything that's run out**

Welfare facilities on site toolbox talk

Scan to read the full talk, free from Tradefox.
tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks

Clean hands. Clean welfare. Clean break.

1. **Wash before you eat**
2. **Keep welfare clean and tidy**
3. **Report anything that's run out**

Welfare facilities on site toolbox talk

Scan to read the full talk, free from Tradefox.
tradefoxapp.com/toolbox-talks

Sources and qualifications

Welfare facilities on site

Scope: Great Britain safety legislation unless a nation is identified. Northern Ireland has separate legislation. Site rules can be stricter than minimum legal duties; use the site assessment, instructions and competent supervision.

A4 applicability: no installation-design requirement is asserted in this talk. Its claims are referenced to the subject-specific sources below.

S1. HSE: Construction welfare overview

Provision from the start, contractor/client duties, sufficient facilities and health risk controls.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/welfare/index.htm

S2. HSE: Toilets and washing

Suitable toilets, water, soap/drying, cleanliness and facility location; key points 2-4 and quiz.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/welfare/toilets-and-washing.htm

S3. HSE: Changing, eating and rest

Drinking water, rest/eating, changing/drying/storage and shared facilities; key points 5-8, Do/Don't and quiz.

https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/welfare/changing-rooms-and-lockers.htm