Bitumen

Bitumen is normally categorised as Hazardous Waste. It is a binder used in the production of asphalt or as a sheet material in its own right in damp proof courses and roof coverings. It is a brown or black viscous residue from the vacuum distillation of crude petroleum and consists of high molecular weight hydrocarbons and minor amounts of sulfur and nitrogen. (WRAP, 2010)

Hazardous waste materials and their containers need to be disposed of carefully. The disposal is controlled by strict laws.

Minimise:
The best way to minimise the amount of bitumen entering the waste stream is through careful product specification and use. Order products to size and in a quantity that matches the requirements of the project. Design specification of the structure should take into consideration the product sizes available to reduce the amount of off-cuts produced.

Recycle:
Bitumen can be recycled back into bitumen to be used for instance in roofing membranes or for use within asphalt for roads. More details can be found at www.aggregain.org.uk

General advice:
- Ensure it is handled safely – follow manufacturers’ instructions and recommended safety procedures for disposal;
- Dispose of separately – DO NOT mix hazardous and non-hazardous waste;
- Complete paperwork – ensure the correct waste transfer notes are completed where required; and if you are unsure, get advice from the site foreman, waste or environmental manager.

Useful figures

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wastage rate</td>
<td>4.9% by weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMARTWaste benchmark**</td>
<td>0.474 tonnes/100m² (Non-residential projects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.262 tonnes/100m² (Residential projects)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Taken from BRE’s Green Guide for Specification
* *Based on completed projects on BRE’s SMARTWaste database- -binders (28th February 2010)