

Every year, moving skips cause death and serious injury. You, your workmates and bystanders are at risk.

Dangers include:

- being struck by vehicles;
- falling and slipping;
- failures of lifting equipment;
- striking overhead cables/obstructions;
- vehicle overturns;
- runaway vehicles.

This pocket card provides a brief checklist of some important things you can do to protect yourself and others.

It is *not* a full list. You may need to make other checks depending on the vehicle you drive and the places you work in.

If in doubt, you may need to refer to the skip loader manual, or you may need to ask for extra advice.

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Keep close to your vehicle

- Don't risk being run over by other vehicles. (Note: At some sites you may be instructed to keep away from the entire area during the loading of your container.)
- Ensure no pedestrians are nearby during reversing and loading/unloading.

DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP

- Park on good ground - avoid sloping, uneven or soft ground.
- Apply the handbrake.
- Use chocks where necessary on slopes.
- Use stabilisers - keep braked rear wheels on the ground when on slopes.
- Avoid trapping between the skip and vehicles/walls. Keep a good, clear space all round.
- Sheet/unsheet safely - do it from ground level wherever possible. Use autosheeters or gantries/harnesses where provided. Avoid climbing on the vehicle.
- Check before moving the skip:
 - hooks, chains lugs, bars etc to be fully engaged;
 - chains should not be twisted or knotted. They should not snag during load movement;

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SAFE VEHICLE

Before you start work

Each day, check your vehicle and lifting equipment and report any faults.

Check the following work properly and are not damaged:

- brakes;
- tyres;
- lights;
- steering;
- seatbelts;
- wheel chocks (if needed);
- lifting equipment - controls, hooks, chains, hoses etc;
- vision aids - mirrors and/or TV cameras.

Before setting off

- Check your in-cab information about any special precautions for the drop/pick-up. Sites should tell the skip company about these beforehand, and agree precautions.
- Prevent contact with overhead obstructions. Know your clearance height. Ensure lifting arms are fully lowered.

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- skip floors/panels/hinges/chains lugs, tipping bar etc to be in good condition;
- doors (where fitted) to be in good condition with proper locks;
- the load is not overweight.

DOORS CAN SPRING OPEN!

Stand outside the door arc and load discharge path when opening to avoid being struck by 'pressurised' door or contents.

REMEMBER...

Monitor the work area at all times!

Skip movements can kill!

If the drop/pick-up seems unsafe, don't do it!

Protect yourself, your workmates and the public.

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- Ensure any load/skip is secure and chains are correctly stowed.
- Check you have your safety gear, especially high-visibility clothing and boots.

SAFE WORKER

Entering the site

- Know exactly where to go, and what needs to be done (you may need to talk to someone on site).
- Obey all rules - signs, one-way systems etc.
- Beware of pedestrians at all times.
- Wear your safety gear. High-visibility clothing is essential. You are likely to need your safety boots and may need other gear.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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This pocket card contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

This card is available in priced packs of 10 from HSE Books, ISBN 0 7176 2216 9. Single free copies are also available from HSE Books.

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SAFE WORKING

Reversing

- Minimise reversing - both the amount you do and the distances you travel.
- Make sure your reversing area is clear.
- Use your reversing aids - cameras, mirrors, alarms.
- Look out for banksmen. They are at great risk from your reversing vehicle.
- Some sites have made arrangements to eliminate the need for banksmen because of the risks they face. You should make sure you know these arrangements.
- Where banksmen are used, you must be clear about what their signals mean and obey them. If you can't see your banksman at any time when moving - **Stop!**

Exit your cab properly

- Jumping out causes broken legs and twisted ankles: it could also put you into the path of another vehicle.
- Boots with good support help prevent twisted ankles.

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