

## Helsinki's environmental protection regulations have been updated – Checklist of the most important regulations

The updated environmental protection regulations of the City of Helsinki took effect on 15 July 2018. Environmental protection regulations complement the Environmental Protection Act, and their objective is to prevent environmental pollution. This bulletin contains a checklist of the most important regulations for excavation and rock crushing contractors and commissioners.

### Dust suppression Sections 19, 20

- **Excavation**

If the excavation site is located less than 200 metres from a residential area or area, where people spend time (e.g. schools and day care centres and their yards, recreational areas) or if the quarry material is transported in the vicinity of such areas, the excavation equipment must be equipped with dust collecting equipment, which must be used for the entire duration of the excavation work. The dust collection equipment must not be emptied at the blast site or among the broken rocks.

- **Crushing**

You must always submit a noise notification of any crushing work (additional information provided below). The noise notification decision contains regulations concerning irrigation and the protection of the equipment. The general policy is that crushing units must be equipped with air-tight covers placed on the conveyors and an irrigation system, which consists of water spraying points located at least above and below the crusher and at every conveyor unloading point. If the crushing site is located less than 200 metres from a residential area or an area where people spend time, the crushing equipment must also be entirely covered by an air-tight protective structure and the only material that may be crushed is material originating from the site itself and only up to the volume that will be utilised as crushed material on site.

- **Passageways**

You must prevent street dust emissions on construction site access routes by using a saline solution, for example, and you must wash away any soil that has spread onto the street. The soil and rocks as well as demolition waste being transported to and from sites must be dampened if they emit dust.

### Noise reduction

#### Remember to observe peace and quiet at night Section 22

- You must not perform any noisy tasks in the vicinity of residential or accommodation premises and care facilities during the night time from 22.00 to 7.00. This does not apply to construction or maintenance work related to traffic routes or community development, or temporary work that must be performed during the night time due to traffic safety, flow of traffic or some other justifiable reason.



## Obligation to notify and negotiate Section 17

- **Always notify local residents of any noisy work**

You must always notify local residents of any noisy work. It is especially important to notify residents of necessary night-time work. Notifications must be displayed in the stairwells of the buildings predicted to be affected at least one week prior to starting work. The notification must state the exact times when work is going to be carried out, as well as contact details for the contractor and the commissioner of the work.

- **Agree on noise reduction concerning especially sensitive sites**

You must work together with local sensitive sites (e.g. day care centres, care institutions) to agree on sufficient noise reduction measures on the construction site. You may need to stop noisy work for the duration of children's nap times or when the children are outside, for example.

## Noise notification Section 21

- **Submit a [noise notification](#), if necessary** (Section 118 of the Environmental Protection Act)

Send the notification to the City of Helsinki Registrar's Office at least 30 days prior to starting work. A decision will be made based on the notification, which may contain regulations concerning the reduction of environmental hazards.

- A noise notification for work such as excavation work (drilling, blasting, piling, transport of rock) must be issued, if the work will be carried out Monday–Friday outside the hours of 7.00–18.00.

If the crushing work is connected to construction and maintenance work related to traffic routes or community development, and it must be performed during the night time and weekends for the sake of traffic safety, flow of traffic or some other justifiable reason, a noise notification must be issued if the work will be carried out Monday–Sunday outside the hours of 7.00–22.00 or if the work is to be carried out for a period of more than 25 days.

- A noise notification must always be issued for the crushing of rock or mineral construction waste. PLEASE NOTE! Crushing requires an environmental permit, if the operating period of the crushing site is at least 50 days.

## Construction site water Section 4

- Comply with the [City of Helsinki's instructions](#) when handling and directing construction site water. Construction site water must not be directed to a municipal sewer network without a written agreement with the Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority (HSY).

## Storage of fuels, hazardous chemicals and waste Sections 11, 12

- Dangerous liquid chemicals and waste must be stored in double-walled containers, in a container in a separate protective bund or in a storage space that acts as a protective bund.
- Place transportable fuel tanks on leak-proof platforms, unless the structure of the tank incorporates a reservoir, double bottom or double wall or the tank is located in a covered protective bund. Place the tank so that the fuel cannot seep into the sewer system or water bodies in the event of an accident. Refuelling stations must be equipped with absorbent material and equipment for the collection and storage of any leaks.
- Please also observe additional regulations concerning the storage of hazardous chemicals and waste in important ground water areas.

Helsinki's environmental protection regulations are available in full on the [City's website](#).

Do you have any questions regarding environmental protection regulations or do you wish to provide feedback on them?  
You can also use the [feedback section](#) of the City of Helsinki website.