



### 1. Health and Safety General

It is the policy of the Winchester & District Allotment Holders Society to provide a safe and healthy environment so that members can enjoy cultivating their plot(s) and all the benefits it can bring to their health, mental wellbeing and the environment in general.

Members are reminded that they are responsible for the health and safety of themselves, visitors and other third parties (including trespassers) within their own plot boundary. With this in mind members are to ensure that their plots are kept in a safe condition so as not to cause a hazard to others.

The society accepts no liability for loss or injury to persons within the boundaries of individual members plots howsoever caused.

The society is however responsible for the health and safety of members, visitors and other third parties (including trespassers) in the communal areas of the site and when members are volunteering on official allotment activities business e.g. work parties or attending society events.

The purpose of this document is to provide general guidance to members regarding measures they can take for the health and safety of themselves and others whilst attending the allotments and working on their plots. It is up to individual members/associates whether to follow the guidance whilst working on their own plots. The society accepts no liability for damage or personal injury in the use or lack of use of this document on individual member plots.

Amongst the guidance in this document a number of allotment rules and legal requirements are also stated which are highlighted in red

**Members with children are reminded to supervise their children at all times while on the allotment site and not to allow them to wander freely around the site or onto other members' plots.**

**Keep walkways linking plots and around your plot free from obstructions/trip hazards.**

**Be aware that vehicles and pedestrians share the trackway through the centre of the site therefore drivers must ensure they drive slowly (5mph) and give way to pedestrians.**

Members are requested to report any issues or concerns regarding health and safety to the committee.

A first aid kit is located in the cabin for members to use if necessary. Note - Please inform a member of the committee if you use any of the first aid kit items to enable replacements to be sourced.

In the event of an emergency e.g. an accident/injury requiring the emergency services dial 999 and ask the call handler for the relevant service stating the location type of emergency.

The what 3 words location for the site main gate is 'banks.patrol.roadways' this will guide the emergency services to the main gate of the site.

Emergency committee contact numbers are posted on the outside of the main gate.

### 2. Structures

Badly built or damaged structures can be dangerous and can be attractive to children playing on the site, e.g. making dens. Greenhouses with damaged frames or poorly constructed/damaged sheds could collapse on someone; sheds may also contain old chemicals and sharp tools; children could become trapped inside structures. Corrugated iron/steel often develops dangerous sharp edges.

**Ensure structures on site including greenhouses and sheds are kept in good repair and structurally safe.**

**Members are required to maintain structures on their plots to ensure structural integrity/safety**



Beware of nails sticking out of wood as you could either cut yourself or tread on them. You are advised to either remove them or knock them over.

Beware of sharp edges of steel components on sheds and other structures, you are advised to file them down.

Beware of canes and stakes pushed into ground as you could injure yourself or others should you or others bend down or fall onto them. You are advised to place cane safety toppers or similar over the top of canes or stakes.

**If members wish to build/install a new structure or significantly modify a structure on their plot they are required to seek permission from the committee member responsible for structures.**

### 3. Hazardous substances

Types of hazardous substances often used on allotments include but are not limited to:

- Fuels e.g. petrol, paraffin etc
- Paints
- Oil
- Fertilisers
- Wood preservers
- Pesticides including weed killers
- Adhesives/sealants
- Cleaning products

Should the substance you are using contain any of the following pictograms on the container then it is deemed as hazardous.



Explosive



Flammable



Oxidising



Corrosive



Acute toxicity



Hazardous to the environment



Health hazard



Serious health hazard



Gas under pressure

Hazardous substances may be hazardous to human health through a number of routes, namely ingestion, skin absorption, inhalation and/or on contact with eyes.



Flammable substances should be kept away from sources of ignition and prevented from overheating. Note - flammable substance containers e.g. aerosols may explode when exposed to high temperatures/hot conditions including direct sunlight.

Always read the label and manufacturers' instructions prior to using a substance and follow the safety guidance contained within including the use of personal protective equipment.

Pesticides and other hazardous substances should be kept in their original containers and should never be decanted into any other type of container.

**Pesticides and other hazardous substances should be stored well out of the reach of children and locked away in sheds or other locked storage containers/cupboards.**

Do not store fertilisers within 10 metres of a watercourse or field drain to avoid nitrate leaching

**Fuels used on the allotment site must be kept to a minimum and only be kept/stored in UN approved flammable substance containers e.g. Jerrycans and/or plastic fuel cans specifically designed for fuels.**

Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking after using hazardous substances as you may end up ingesting or inhaling a hazardous substance that could cause harm.

**Do not allow hazardous substances to be discharged to land or watercourses (unless specifically designed for the purpose) as this is illegal.**

You are advised to wear impermeable gloves (such as rubber/nitrile/latex) and eye protection when handling/using hazardous substances. Note – specific guidance on PPE will be contained in the manufacturers' instructions.

**Members are reminded that causing pollution is illegal and members may be held legally responsible should a pollution incident be traced to them.**

#### 4. Risk of infection

Leptospirosis is an infection spread by contact with animal urine, the most common form of the disease is transmitted through contact with rat urine and can lead to Weils disease.

The infection may resemble influenza in the early stages. It can readily be treated by antibiotics however if untreated it can lead to serious illness requiring hospital treatment. Should anyone exhibit flu like symptoms during or shortly after working at their allotment, they are advised to visit their doctor.

Working with animal manure is a common practice on the allotments either through use as a fertiliser or when keeping livestock. Members are advised that animal manure and soil in general may contain harmful bacteria which could cause infection. You are advised to wear gloves when handling manures and soils.

Stagnant water in storage butts or IBCs may also harbour harmful bacteria and caution should be exercised when handling stored water. Do not use water butts for washing hands, face etc and do not use for washing produce and avoid water splashes into eyes.

Gastrointestinal illnesses can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. This type of illness is a possibility due to the nature of the allotments and activities carried out. Control measures to be adopted are advised as follows:

Good personal hygiene is key to preventing infection.

- Ensure good hygiene practices are followed, wash hands in clean water before eating, drinking or smoking after working with animals, animal manure and soil. You are advised to wear gloves when handling manures, soils. Either wash hands in clean water or sanitise hands with anti-bacterial hand sanitiser once finished.
- Keep up to date with general vaccinations e.g. tetanus



### Health, Safety & Environmental Guidance

- All cuts and abrasions should be cleaned and covered with waterproof dressings.
- Avoid rubbing nose, mouth and eyes during working with stored water, soil, manure or animals. Either wash hands in clean water or sanitise hands with anti-bacterial hand sanitiser.
- Inform the committee should signs of rats be observed.

Legionella bacteria can be contained in stagnant water or can even be contained in mains water. It can cause legionnaires disease which can be life threatening but only where contaminated water fine spray mist vapour droplets are inhaled into the lungs. The risk is low however members should be aware of the hazard. Members are advised not to use overhead water mist sprayers in poly tunnels etc, if you use hand held hoses with fine spray nozzles ensure they are used carefully ensuring they are pointed downwards when used.

**Note – Linear or rotary ground mounted garden sprayers that spray fine water droplets into the air are not permitted for use at the allotments.**

#### 5. Use of Hand Tools and Power Tools

It is not the policy of the society to tell members what to do regarding how you use your tools on your allotment however we do have a duty to advise you of the general risks around the use of tools and some good practice.

General hazards when using tools/power tools:

- Risk of fire from use of fuels (petrol driven tools) and sparks from use of disk cutters/grinders.
- Serious cuts and abrasions from sharp objects/tools
- Eye injuries from use of abrasive or impact power tools from flying debris/material.
- Contact with moving and rotating parts which could cause injury e.g. disk cutters/grinders, chainsaws, mowers, strimmers, power saws
- Inhalation of fumes and dust particles
- Burns from hot sparks, materials or friction

General guidance for use of tools and power tools

- Power tools should only be used by persons confident and competent to do so
- Follow manufacturers instructions for safe use of the machinery/tool
- Do not smoke when handling fuels and keep fuels away from all sources of ignition.
- Due to the risk of fire do not refuel hot machinery, wait for the machine/engine to cool down prior to re-fuelling.
- The correct personal protective equipment should be worn as detailed in the manufacturer's instructions.
- Always use the correct tool for the job
- Scrap any tools that are worn or damaged beyond repair
- Keep hammer heads tightly wedged in their shafts to prevent them flying off when used.
- Keep hands away from the blade and direction of cut when using knives and saws.
- Keep sharp tools away from children
- Sturdy footwear should be worn when working on your allotment e.g. when digging and using power tools etc.



- It is advisable to wear gloves when using tools to protect hands from cuts/abrasions
- Ensure that any safety guards fitted to machinery are not removed or tampered with.

## 6. Safe use of Ladders/Stepladders

Every year many people are injured, some fatally, whilst using ladders. More than half of the accidents occur because ladders are not securely placed/set up correctly or from using a damaged ladder.

Other causes of accidents include climbing with loads, overreaching or over balancing. Some are caused by grease, oil or other substances being transferred to ladder rungs on the soles of the user's footwear.

Again if you decide to use a ladder or stepladder on your allotment, that is entirely your choice as is how you use it. However, the following contains safety advice/tips that you may wish to adopt for your safety:

- First ask the question 'is a ladder or stepladder necessary for the task' or is there a safer alternative, such as a safe working platform or utilising telescopic fruit picking poles etc.
- Check that conditions are acceptable, hazardous conditions include exposure, weather, slippery/soft ground, movement of persons or vehicles. Ladder use is also not advised in thunder storms, high winds or icy/snowy conditions
- Is the ground on which the ladder or steps will stand free from loose material, is it firm? If it is not level will levelling be required?
- Check the ladder for damage before use. If any damage is found, you are advised not to use the ladder or step ladder
- Check footwear is clean.
- When working from the ladder or stepladder it is advised to have a safe handhold and be close enough to the work, **do not overreach or overbalance**.
- The ladder or steps should only be used for the load and purpose for which they are designed.
- Where stepladders are used, it is advised that you do not stand on/work from the top three steps/rungs of a stepladder as this is dangerous. If you need to step on the top three steps of a stepladder you should use a bigger stepladder instead.
- Ladders/Stepladders should not to be used 'side on' to the work if pressure needs to be applied to the work e.g. drilling etc. as this could topple the ladder/stepladder.
- It is advisable to have someone 'foot' the ladder/stepladder for you during use i.e. someone at the bottom (foot) of the ladder/stepladder to provide additional stability and prevent slippage.
- If using a ladder it is advisable to place the ladder at a suitable angle to minimise the risk of slipping (ideally at about 75 degrees to the horizontal, i.e. a ratio of about 1 metre out from the structure for every 4 metre in height)
- You are advised not to use a makeshift ladder or stand a ladder on a drum, box or other unsteady object to gain height.

## 7. Manual Handling

Working on your allotment often involves handling heavy items e.g. bags of compost and other such items.

Handling of heavy items can cause serious muscular/skeletal injuries.



Everyone has different physical capabilities based upon factors, for example pre-existing injuries/illnesses, age, individual strength, whether your body is used to lifting and carrying i.e. manual job vs sedentary job and many other factors

With the above in mind members are advised to take care when lifting items including:

- Assess the load, carry out a trial lift without maximum effort, is the load wet, slippery, sharp, could the centre of gravity shift if the contents shift?
- For heavy loads make use of mechanical aides such as wheel barrows, sack trucks or trolleys wherever possible.
- Ask for help from fellow members should loads be too heavy to lift on your own.
- Stand close to the load facing the direction in which you intend to travel, with your feet spread to shoulder width to create a firm base.
- Bend your knees and keep your back in a straight natural line. Don't bend your knees fully as this will leave little power to lift.
- Grasp the load firmly. The best grip is one in which the fingers are curled into a hook.
- Raise your head
- Lift with your legs and not your back, use your leverage, momentum, balance and timing for a smooth action. Move your feet as necessary. Avoid twisting the body during lifting. Do not bend sideways.
- Hold the load close to the centre of your body.

Carrying Loads:

- Check the route before carrying a load to ensure it is clear and free from obstructions/trip/slip hazards
- Keep the load close to your body, with your arms and chin tucked in.
- Try to avoid twisting your body, stooping, bending or leaning back.
- If you need to change direction, move your feet.
- Don't change your grip unless the load is sufficiently supported.
- Don't block your vision with the object you are carrying.

## 8. Hot Weather Hazards & Guidance

The sun and warm weather of summer can also bring special hazards for those working outdoors and sometime indoors particularly in poly tunnels or greenhouses. The combination of heat, humidity and physical labour can lead to illness.

The two most serious forms of heat-related illnesses are heat exhaustion (primarily from dehydration) and heat stroke. Signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke need immediate attention.

Recognising those warning signs and taking quick action can make a difference in preventing heat related illnesses.

The following are guidelines everyone should follow during the warm weather months:

- a). Understand what heat stress is and be able to recognise the symptoms. It is a signal that says the body is having difficulty maintaining its narrow temperature range. The heart pumps faster, blood is diverted from internal organs to the skin, breathing rate increases, sweating increases, all in an attempt to transfer more heat to the outside air and cool the skin by evaporation of sweat. If the body can't keep up then the person suffers effects ranging from heat cramps to heat exhaustion, and finally to heat stroke.



- b). Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion include headaches, dizziness, light-headedness or fainting; weakness and moist skin; mood changes such as irritability or confusion; upset stomach or vomiting.
- c). Symptoms of Heat Stroke include dry, hot skin with no sweating; mental confusion or loss of consciousness; seizures or convulsions. Seek medical assistance immediately.
- d). Dry clothes and skin do not mean that you are not sweating. In dry climates, you might not feel wet or sticky, but you are still sweating. On a very warm day, you can lose body fluids rapidly.

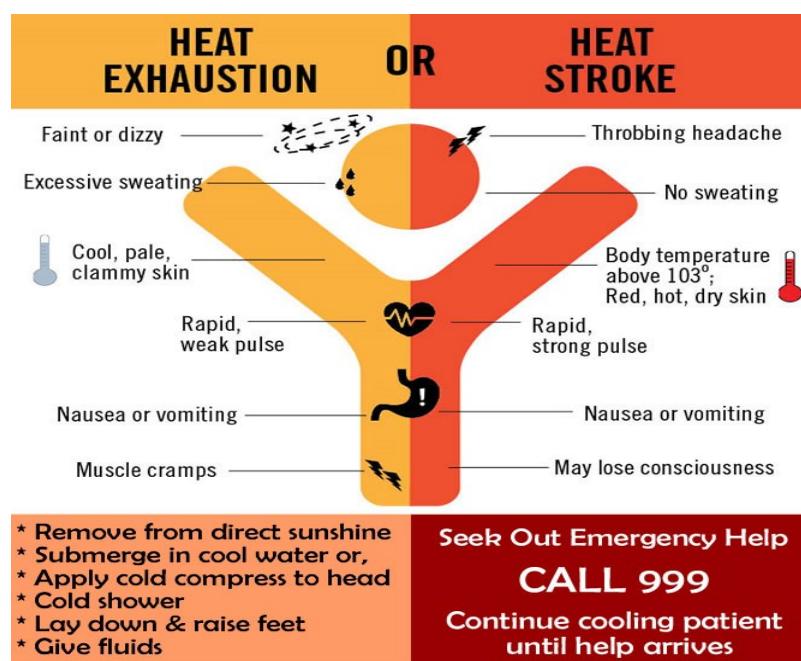
Help Prevent the ill effects of heat stress by:

- Drinking water frequently and moderately (see section 6).
- If possible, avoid direct sunlight or other heat sources.
- Try to plan your day to tackle more strenuous jobs during the cooler morning hours.
- Take short shade breaks frequently in cooler, shaded areas.
- Avoid alcoholic or caffeinated beverages and eat lightly.
- Remembering that it takes about one to two weeks for the body to adjust to the heat; this adaptation to heat is quickly lost — so your body will need time to adjust after any absence.
- Wearing lightweight, light-coloured and loose fitting clothes.
- Wear neck protectors and sunscreen.

- e). Be prepared to act. In the event you recognise these symptoms (see above sections 8a, b & c) in yourself or others,

you should:

- Move the person to a cool shaded area.
- Loosen or remove heavy clothing.
- Provide small sips of cool drinking water.
- Fan and mist the person with water.





#### f). Importance of Hydration.

When you are drinking enough fluids your body is in balance and your urine will be a pale straw yellow colour. When you have not drank enough fluids your kidneys try to save as much water as they can and cause your urine to be darker in colour (more concentrated).

Dark yellow urine is a sign that you are dehydrated and that you need to drink more fluids to prevent dehydration. Your fluid intake goal is to make your urine no darker than the colour of # 3 on the chart on the next page. The darker colours (4-8) are signs of dehydration and may cause you to become ill.

Dehydration happens when your body loses too much water. This occurs when you do not take in enough fluids or lose too much fluid from vomiting, diarrhoea, fevers, or sweating a lot. These illnesses cause your body to “save” any fluids that it can find such as those from your blood or other body tissues.

By the time a person becomes severely dehydrated there is not enough fluid in the body to send blood to your organs and you may go into shock which is life-threatening.

#### **Early signs of dehydration:**

- Increased thirst
- Dry, sticky mouth
- Reduced urine output
- Dark yellow urine (concentrated)

#### **Moderate signs of dehydration:**

- Extreme thirst
- Dry appearance in mouth
- Eyes aren't tearing (dry eyes)
- Urine has decreased to half as many times in 24h (usually 3 or fewer times)
- Urine is very dark in colour (dark amber or brown)
- You feel dizzy or lightheaded (relieved when you lay down)

Severe dehydration can be life-threatening and needs immediate attention and emergency care, symptoms include:

- Anxiety,
- Confusion,
- Tired/unable to stay awake.
- Dizziness not relieved by lying down,
- Faintness,
- Weak rapid heart rate,
- Cold clammy (wet) skin,
- No urine,
- Loss of consciousness.

You should drink 1.5 to 2 litres of water/fluids per day to prevent dehydration!!!

\*\*Note: certain vitamins and drugs may make your urine change colour. Check with your healthcare provider or pharmacist for any questions/concerns



### Hydrated

These colourations 1 – 3, show that you are fully hydrated. However if you have reached level 3 (pale yellow) you are beginning to show the signs of dehydration, and should up your water intake.

1

2

3

### De-hydrated

Level 4 (a darker yellow than level 3), indicates that you have started the dehydration process and need to drink more water. From level 5 upwards to level 8, you are in fact dehydrated. Whilst not critical at level 5, more water is necessary to prevent symptoms worsening.

At Level 8, you are seriously dehydrated and in need of rapid hydration to increase your electrolytes.

4

5

6

7

8

## 9. Cold Weather Hazards and Guidance

The main hazards of working in cold/wet winter weather conditions are hypothermia and frostbite. Hypothermia is particularly insidious, as the sufferer does not usually realise that there is a problem until they actually collapse.

Efficient body & brain functions depend on the body's temperature being maintained at its normal level of about 37° Celsius. In a cold environment body heat must be conserved to maintain the brain temperature at about 37° C & to ensure adequate flow of blood to the extremities, particularly the hands & feet. Failure of the body to maintain its internal temperature at about 37°C is referred to as hypothermia.

The first stages of hypothermia result in the skin becoming blue, the person shivers and may become irrational. If not treated the skin becomes pale, cold & dry, muscles become rigid & the person will stop shivering & may become stupefied & then unconscious. The early stages of hypothermia can be treated by getting the sufferer into a warm place & allowing slow recovery. An affected person may be irrational & may resist this. If anyone becomes stupefied or unconscious an ambulance must be called.

Prolonged exposure of the feet & hands to temperatures around freezing can result in frostbite. Here the skin appears white & may become damaged due to the interruption of the blood circulation. Anyone showing these symptoms should be taken inside & warmed up very gently. Sudden warming, such as putting feet or hands next to a direct heat source, or rubbing them vigorously, can worsen the damage. Severe frostbite requires expert medical attention.

Be aware that you are also at greater risk of slips, trips and falls due to wet, snowy or icy ground conditions

If members and/or associates wish to work on their allotment during winter there are a number of precautions that can be taken including:

- Wear appropriate clothing to suit the conditions i.e. hats, scarves, plenty of layers and a suitable jacket for cold weather including waterproof clothing for wet weather.
- Wear suitable footwear i.e. suitable boots for the conditions including high grip soles



- Wear suitable gloves e.g. thermal and waterproof during the coldest/wettest periods of winter.
- Take a flask with you containing hot soup or a hot drink
- If you feel too cold and/or wet consider going home a re-scheduling your tasks during milder periods.

#### 10. Bonfires

**Bonfires can cause serious injury and/or damage if not controlled properly. Members are advised to keep fires small, manageable and be sited away from structures and flammable items as hot embers can drift on the wind particularly in high winds and ignite fires elsewhere.**

**Prior to starting a fire check your surroundings and move flammable items away from the proposed site of the fire and ensure it is away from flammable structures**

**Take care when starting a fire DO NOT use accelerants such as petrol or other flammable substances as with petrol and many other flammable substances it is the vapour that will ignite and possibly burn you if the vapour cloud is surrounding you when you ignite the fire.**

You are advised to start a small fire by using fire lighters or rolled up paper and small pieces of wood (kindling) gradually adding items as the fire begins to take hold.

Take care when stoking or adding items to the fire, use a pole or similar to stoke or move items into the flames as you can suffer burns if you get too close.

**Only burn wood and other organic waste from your allotment, do not burn household waste or plastics**

**You must be in attendance at all times while your fire is burning, you must put your fire out if you have to leave the site.**

**Members are also required to have the means to extinguish fires to hand while the fire is burning e.g. bucket(s) of water or fire extinguisher in case of emergency.**

**Remember that it is a society rule that members are only allowed bonfires between the 1<sup>st</sup> Nov and the 31<sup>st</sup> March i.e. during the winter months from 4pm. Members are also required consider other members who may still be on site and to check the wind direction therefore only light fires when wind direction is blowing away from local residents.**

#### 11. Pond Safety

Definition of a pond - A pond is a small area of still, fresh water. It is different from a river or a stream because it does not have moving water and it differs from a lake because it has a small area and is no more than around 1.8m deep but can be as shallow as 10-20cm. Some ponds are formed naturally, filled either by an underwater spring, or by rainwater – sometimes known as 'dewponds'; other ponds are artificially made, such as brick built, tubs, dugout and other man made structures.

**Under our insurance cover a pond is not permitted on the WDAHS site unless the following conditions are met:**

1. **A fence is erected around the pond or plot where the pond is located that is no less than 1m high**
2. **All sections of the fence should be clear of objects that will allow a child to use the to climb over the fence**



- 3. If a gate is fitted, the gate should be self-closing and open outwards from the pond with the latch/lock being fitted to the inside**
- 4. Any other safety arrangement that our insurers have given prior written agreement to.**

**Any applications for a pond must be made to the committee prior to installation. Also, should you wish cover your pond you must provide information regarding the pond cover including load capacity information should someone stand on it which will need to be approved by the insurers.**

## **12. Water Butts/Water Collection Vessels**

**Our insurers will only cover water butts and water storage vessels on the basis that they have a fixed cover to prevent a person or animal from falling in.**

**Members will need to ensure that their water storage butts and vessels have a lid fitted which is of an acceptable standard to our insurance provider.**

Members are advised to contact the committee for further information regarding suitable solutions

## **13. Bees and Wasps**

Members, Associates and guests are advised not to disturb bees or wasps which are ever present on the allotment site due to the potential for being stung.

Some people are allergic to bee and wasp stings therefore being stung may cause an Anaphylactic reaction which could be life threatening. Anyone who is aware that they are allergic to bee and wasp stings should be in possession of their own EpiPen and keep it with them at all times.

Should members or associates discover a bee or wasp nests on site or on their plot should inform the committee if the nest is an issue. Be aware that the committee are not necessarily responsible for arranging or funding pest control services for nests on individual plots.

## **14. Plant Allergies**

Certain plant species may cause an allergic reaction depending on the individuals' susceptibility.

Members and guests should be aware you may be allergic to certain plant species and if so, avoid contact. Gloves along with clothing covering arms and legs should be worn at all times if unsure. Wash hands thoroughly at the end of each session.

## **15. Slips, Trips and Falls**

Slips, trips and falls can cause serious injury to persons on allotments, members, associates and guests are advised of the following:

- Be aware of ground conditions, changes in levels etc.
- Be aware of weather conditions, i.e. wet, snowy or icy weather conditions can cause slips
- Remove waste materials from walkways and work areas
- Remove other trip hazards from walkways and work areas
- Keep plots tidy and in good order
- Wear sensible footwear with good grip
- Report any hazards in communal areas to the committee



## 16. Wood Burning Stoves and Fixed Gas and Wood Burning Cooking Appliances

**There is no Liability cover provided for third party damage or injury due to a fire where wood burning stoves or fixed gas cooking systems are installed in member's plots/sheds which cook by flame.**

**Wood burning stoves are not covered under standard allotment insurance policies - they are considered a high-risk addition to an allotment, increasing the likelihood of fire damage and other liabilities. Insurers view log burners as increasing the risk of fire, requiring professional installation, regular maintenance, and adherence to building regulations to mitigate potential claims.**

**Therefore, wood burning heating or fixed gas or wood burning cooking stoves on site are NOT permitted on site.**

**Removable/portable camping gas stoves are permitted to be used by members, provided Manufacturer's instructions are followed. Members are still advised that any live flame inside a wooden/partially wooden building is potentially dangerous. Therefore, any flame producing cooking appliance should be used outside.**

## 17. Environmental Legal Compliance

Members are expected to be environmentally responsible and to comply with relevant UK environmental law regarding pollution prevention and waste management.

**Water Resources Act 1991 – makes it an offence to allow polluting matter (solid or liquid) to be discharged to land and/or watercourses without a written discharge consent from the environment agency**

**The Water Industries Act 1991 – makes it an offence to discharge any polluting matter/hazardous substance or effluent down toilets or sinks into the sewage system without a written discharge consent from the relevant water company i.e. Southern Water**

**Therefore, DO NOT pour liquid waste chemicals/hazardous substances onto the land, down toilets or sinks on site as this is illegal.**

**Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part 3 allows action to be taken by the Local Authority on an organisation or an individual for the following issues (when deemed prejudicial to health or a nuisance):**

- Premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance
- Smoke emitted
- Any accumulation or deposit deemed a nuisance
- Noise emitted from premises
- Any other matter declared by any enactment to be a statutory nuisance

**This is one of the reasons the committee require members to keep their plots in good order and not to cause statutory nuisance hence rules such as controls on bonfires etc.**

Although members are required to keep their plots on good order the committee still encourages members to consider biodiversity on their plots.

Waste Materials:

**Members are required to ensure they do not allow waste materials to build up on their plots and be aware that it is an offence to allow waste materials to escape or end up in the general environment.**



**Waste materials that are not related to Allotments or Gardening are not permitted to be stored on allotment society land as this is illegal under UK environmental law.**

**Any waste material, allotment related or not that is stored on site for over 12 months is in breach of the UK environmental permitting regulations regarding the storage of waste on a non domestic site therefore members must ensure that waste items are regularly removed and not allowed to accumulate. Note the only exception to this is individual member composting facilities.**

**If members wish to hire a skip to be placed on WDAHS land for removal of their waste items they must seek permission from the committee prior to arranging the skip. Members who hire skips are legally responsible for the correct disposal of the waste and ensuring the waste contractor has an appropriate and up to date waste carrier's license.**

Ensure that the waste generated through working on your plots is disposed of regularly, correctly and legally. You are advised to take your waste to your local council run waste recycling centre.

If you are unsure what to do with certain wastes the local council website provides information or alternatively contact your local council.