

Excavations

About 5 minutes · Read it out, then ask the questions at the end.

Why it matters. Trenches can collapse without warning. A small amount of soil is heavy enough to crush and suffocate someone.

The hazards

- Collapse of the sides
- Falling into the excavation
- Vehicles and plant too close to the edge
- Undermining nearby structures
- Flooding and buried services

Stay safe

- Never enter an unsupported trench unless it has been assessed as safe
- Excavations must be inspected at the start of each shift, and after anything that could affect their stability
- Keep spoil, materials and plant back from the edge
- Use barriers and stop blocks to prevent falls and vehicles going in
- Use a ladder or proper access to get in and out
- Check for buried services before digging
- Report cracks, water or movement straight away

Ask the team

1. Has this excavation been inspected today?
2. How far back should spoil be kept?
3. How do you get in and out safely?

The law and guidance

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. HSE HSG150.

General guidance to help you give a toolbox talk. It doesn't replace your site's risk assessments, method statements, permits or training. Check it against your own site rules before you give it.

Free toolbox talk from EW Group, 110V site temps specialists. www.ewgroup.co.uk · Bristol 0117 982 0005 · London 020 7476 0001

Excavations

Site: _____ Date: _____

Given by: _____ Company: _____

By signing, I confirm I attended this toolbox talk and understood it.

Name (print)	Company	Signature	Time

Keep this record with your site's training and briefing records.