



Health and Safety Guidance

Excavation in your garden is an activity to be undertaken at your **own risk**. However, please bear in mind the following principles if you choose to excavate.
(to be followed in conjunction with observation of procedures in Risk Assessment)

Observance of Health and Safety guidance is important in order to avoid:

- Injury to persons
- Damage to property

General:

- All must remain aware and alert to their surroundings at all times
- Any broken skin (blisters, cuts etc.) to be cleaned thoroughly and covered. Tetanus status to be checked before undertaking any digging and updated if necessary in event of significant injury
- Watch out for hazards on the ground and overhead.
- Wash your hands before eating
- No persons to be digging while under the influence of intoxicants
- Professional medical advice is to be sought in the event of feeling unwell after the excavations.

COVID-19:

- You should follow Welsh Government advice to protect yourself and others from coronavirus. See <https://gov.wales/staying-home-and-away-others-guidance>

Hidden cables and pipes:

- Be aware there may be electricity, gas, water or sewerage pipes just a few centimetres below where you are digging
- Don't dig too hard with the spade in order to prevent damage to hidden cables or pipes.

Contamination:

- Be aware that objects such as tins and bottles may contain residues of dangerous substances.
- Don't taste or sniff anything you find in the ground.

Tripping and falling:

- Be aware that as the test pit gets deeper it will become more of a hazard
- Keep the site tidy at all times



- Keep the area within 2 m of the test pit clear of equipment and anything else that might be a trip hazard (that includes the spoil heap!)
- Walk AROUND the pit, NOT across it. Never jump across the open pit
- Never run on site.

Animals:

- Watch out for animals which may be trying to interfere with you or your work, or are positioned somewhere where they are a trip hazard.

Weather:

- If it's cold, keep warm by digging!
- If it's wet, use a gazebo to keep your pit and paperwork dry – sieve into a bucket under the gazebo
- If it's sunny, watch out for sunburn. Use hat/sunblock as needed
- If it's hot, watch out for heatstroke – keep hydrated and take breaks in the shade as needed.

Equipment usage:

- NEVER stand behind someone shoveling (so you don't get hit by their elbow)
- NEVER reach into the pit when someone is using the spade or shovel (so you don't get your hand hit).
- NEVER over-load the sieve (½ shovel-full max. in the sieve at a time) (so you don't strain your back)
- NEVER reach into the pit when the spade is being used (so you don't get hit in the face or arms as the spade is lifted up)

...FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES AND ENJOY EXCAVATING IN SAFETY...