



Japanese Knotweed Solutions Ltd

Low Wood Commercial Warehouse, Suites 3, 4 & 5,
574 Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 9SW

Tel: 0161 723 2000 Email: jk@sltd.co.uk Web: www.jksl.com



SAFE SYSTEM OF WORKS: Decontamination of Plant, Equipment and Personnel

LAST REVIEW / UPDATE: 04/01/2024 REVIEWED BY: Jonathan Harris

NEXT REVIEW BEFORE: 01/05/2025

CLIENT: Middleton Sheet Metal Co Ltd

SITE: 1 Hanson Close, Middleton, M24 2HD

INTRODUCTION

In order to prevent cross-contamination, plant, tools, other equipment and personnel (particularly boots) should be decontaminated when working with invasive plant species. Other objects or materials such as building materials, made surfaces and tree stumps, may also need to be decontaminated. This document covers the activity of decontamination by hand, without the aid of a jet wash. It does not cover any other activities.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

This document covers the task and should be read with JKSL's Health and Safety documents, including the contractor's Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) where relevant. Separate RAMS must be provided for the other operations on site.

Where these works are to take place on a construction/development site, JKSL personnel will attend a briefing or induction from the Principal Contractor and will follow all site procedures.

JKSL's Site Foreman should report any health and safety concerns on site to the client's Site Manager at the earliest opportunity, as well as reporting concerns to the JKSL office.

Manual handling risk associated with this task are expected to be significant but not severe. This is addressed in JKSL's Manual Handling Risk Assessment, and the task-specific RA. Risks of twisting and bending can be minimised by an ergonomic layout of working areas. The use of plant to remove the need for manual handling, is encouraged where this is safe, and plant is used as intended.

Where decontamination works involve plant, it is important to ensure that operatives work safely around plant, and that all plant is switched off and cool, with the keys given to the decontamination team to ensure the plant is not operated accidentally.

The potential to disturb asbestos containing materials during this operation is relatively high, and staff carrying out these works should have asbestos awareness training.

EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is required for the task:

- Hand tools – usually a stiff brush, a spade or shovel and potentially a foot wash



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Depending on the job, temporary fencing and signage may be installed and root barrier membrane “decontamination area” may be put in place to prevent cross-contamination. This will be outlined in the Clean Site Policy and additional task-specific RAMS.

The site-specific RAMS will specify what PPE is to be used, but the minimum PPE required for this task is:

- footwear with protective toe and mid-sole [EN ISO:20345],
- high-visibility vest, coat or tabard [EN ISO:20471]
- hard hat [EN397]
- eye protection [EN166]
- knee pads [EN 14404] if works will be done kneeling down
- gloves [EN 388] (Gloves are optional, if using spade or other hand tools, but site rules must be followed at all times)

PREPARATION

JKSL's Site Foreman will make sure all JKSL staff get an induction or site briefing from the client or contractor before starting works.

Foot wash will be placed at a suitable location and used by any person when leaving the contaminated area. Decontamination team can advise foot wash users on correct use.

Tools and other equipment must be inspected before starting works and all plant and powered tools must be left to cool down before starting works.

All works will be undertaken in line with JKSL's Clean Site Policy, the requirements of which will be specified in that document, including what to do with contaminated materials.

DECONTAMINATION OF TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Once contaminated equipment is ready to be removed from working areas (including being switched off and cool), visually inspect it for soils or viable Japanese knotweed material visually. Remove all potentially-contaminated materials hand or using brush shovels and/or spades. Work from the top of plant to the bottom.

Plant may need to be operated to e.g. rotate the wheels or tracks. This must be done by agreement between the team and the plant operator at the end of the decontamination process, using hand signals (e.g. thumbs-up rule).

Other materials to be decontaminated should be dealt with appropriately, for example pieces of tarmac can be brushed off, tree stumps may be more complicated and require cutting with hand-tools (if this is the case, a separate RAMS to be provided). The materials should not be removed from the contaminated area until fully clean.

TRANSFERRING CONTAINERS / REMOVAL OF MATERIALS FROM SITE

Any potentially-contaminated material should be disposed of as specified in the Clean Site Policy, e.g. left on the geotextile membrane or deposited into buckets or ton bags located



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nearby for the purpose. Bags or buckets will be replaced when they are filled to a level suitable for carrying by the available team.

All transfer of containers must be carried out in a planned way, in line with manual handling best practice, including e.g. transferring these using vehicles or dumpers where this is appropriate and allowed within the Clean Site Policy. Do not over-fill containers and unload some material into another container if required to make carrying safe.