Guidance to minimise plasterboard waste.

Cost
- Ensure everyone understands the true cost of waste; ie not just material but labour, skips, gate fees, time. (it can be double the cost of the material)
- Agree waste targets.

Design
- Consideration of design to minimise waste e.g. board height to soffit height in building design.
- Changes to the design can result in significant amounts of waste.
- Rationalise wall types and board thicknesses, through early engagement with the manufacturers and consider ordering bespoke board lengths.
- Learn from the repetitive process of building houses. What experience from the last job can be transferred to the next?
- Early contract awarding so contractors can contribute; 2 stage tendering.
- Make items like bulkheads a standard division of board width; ie 400mm or 300mm

Coordination
- Planned design workshops involving all trades can reduce waste, and ongoing collaborative meetings scheduled into the programme.

Design changes
- Client changes late in the contract will result in waste, let alone cost and delay so consider using the collaborative design processes from BIM and BS 1192 and PAS 1192:2

Education
- All people involved in the design and construction of buildings need to be better educated on how to reduce plasterboard waste and understand the real cost of waste.
- Better training for operatives will reduce waste.
- Engage with manufacturers training schemes.

Storage
- Inappropriate storage can account for significant loss of board; ensure the storage is in a dry and flat position, that won’t require the boards to be moved until they are needed.
- Preloading floors can lead to multiple movement and damage. It also tends to overordering to reduce the risk of shortage.
- Agree a clean and dry storage place for usable offcuts.

Damage on site
- Coordinate with other trades and agree joint responsibility to reduce waste.
- Agree levels of appropriate protection with the delivery team before work commences
- Educate other trades on the impact of damage on a completed installation.

Scheduling/ sequencing
- Ordering bespoke length boards will reduce waste. (Consult with the manufacturers regarding size and availability)
- Don’t install plasterboards until the building is watertight. Water damage is a big cause of waste and subsequent remediation where mould growth becomes evident after occupation. This is a recommendation in the recent ‘Farmer report’
- Agree positions and sizes for service penetrations before the drywall is installed, especially where Fire and sound performance is required.
- Reduce double or multiple handling to minimise the risk of damage.

Installation
- Ensure the Clerk of the Works is familiar with the systems being used and what to look out for at all stages of the build.
- Plan Tool Box talks showing examples of good and bad; include a point of the day that will be looked for at a stage of the work.
- Incentivise operatives on snag free and meeting waste targets.
- Agree a level of site supervision appropriate to the project.
- Consider near site or on site production of standard details. It can reduce dust and speed up installation.
- Use on site production machinery to reduce waste.