



A5 Risk Assessment



Risks occur when a 'hazard' and a person come together in a way that could result in harm to the person. In general a hazard is anything that can cause harm and for every potential hazard you identify the risk. The level of risk depends on how severe the harm could be, and how likely it is that the harm will occur. Therefore, Risk Assessments are an important part of school gardening.

If a risk exists

- It must be assessed as high, medium or low.
- Where possible, remove or reduce the risk.
- If the risk cannot be removed there must be suitable signs/ measures in place to warn people.
- See the Hazard/Risk cycle on next page.

Top tip



Working environment

It is not possible to work in a hazard free environment. However, by taking the necessary precautions and adopting a common sense approach it is possible to keep the risk to yourself and others to a minimum.

Activity

It will help if you complete T3 Health and Safety Audit first.

- 1 Using T4, walk around your garden and check for hazards and risks. Complete the first two columns on the form indicating whether the risk is high, medium or low.
- 2 Go back to the classroom and report on your findings.
- 3 Discuss what you could do to reduce the risks that you found and complete the remaining columns on the form.
- 4 Put your name and date at the top of the form.
- 5 Repeat the Risk Assessment for each new activity.

Health & Safety	Be careful when exploring possible growing areas when completing the Risk Assessment. <i>See also Health and Safety Guidelines (Section B3.3)</i>
Activities on DVD	T3 Health and Safety Audit T4 Garden Risk Assessment
Further information	A4 Health and Safety Audit Health and Safety Executive www.hse.gov.uk

Hazard/Risk Cycle

Hazard

Lifting a heavy bag of compost

Risk (High, Medium or Low)

Risk of harm increases if you

- Lift the bag of compost on your own, or
- Use poor lifting technique

Remove

Where possible, the need for lifting heavy weights should be eliminated by, for example, using smaller packages. Take some of the compost from the large bag and put it into another bag thereby making two manageable loads.



Correct lifting technique

Precautions

Get help with lifting heavy weights

Use the correct manual handling and lifting techniques

Avoid

If lifting heavy weights is necessary, then the risk should be avoided or reduced by, for example, using mechanical handling equipment.