

MAP CODE  
**SINK**

# SINKING THE PLANT

**USE** Dust  
Noise

**What** ➤ Locating noise generating stationary equipment, such as the processing plant, at a low location on the property; for example, the bottom of the worked pit.

**Purpose** ➤ To contain noise and dust.

**Where** **YES:** In urban and rural areas where noise may be a concern.

**Materials, Equipment & Costs**

- 🚧 Berm building material.
- ⚡ Excavator, front-end loader.
- 💰 Nil.

**Plans & Specs**

- Place noise-generating equipment, such as the crusher, in an excavated area below the surrounding terrain.
- Ensure that there is sufficient working space around the equipment so that other machinery can safely access the equipment for normal operations.
- Ensure that there is no danger of sloughing material entrapping personnel or equipment.
- Noise can "leak out" through openings; therefore ensure that there are no gaps in the noise barrier in the directions that noise reduction is most desired.
- Berms and acoustic fences, such as those constructed from used conveyor belts, can be used effectively in combination with a cliff, pit face or pit wall.

**Maintenance**

- Inspect the area for:
  1. Sufficient space for safety and working area
  2. Sloughing
  3. Noise reduction
- To create an effective barrier, the noise-dampening barrier will likely have to be adjusted on a regular basis.

**Sources** Cole, L., Smith, P., Wright, J. and Clough, R. (1999): **Controlling the Environmental Effects of Recycled and Secondary Production Good Practice Guidance**; *United Kingdom Department of the Environment, Transportation and the Regions*, URL <http://www.planning.detr.gov.uk/recycled/practice/index.htm>, June 2001.