

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555111**

100% anonymous. Always.



Environment  
Agency

# Stop waste crime. Report it.

A guide to waste crime, the signs to  
spot and how to report it

## What is waste crime

Waste crime is deliberate law-breaking by people who don't manage, transport and dispose of waste correctly. There are a number of types of waste crime. The Environment Agency mainly deals with:

- Illegal waste sites - sites which operate without a permit or an exemption. Illegal waste activity can also take place on sites with an environmental permit in place. We also take action if illegal waste activity is taking place on sites which have a permit.
- Illegal waste exports - it is illegal to send waste overseas from England for disposal. Some waste can be exported to certain countries for recycling and recovery. All waste exported from England must meet legal controls.
- The deliberate mis-description of waste to under-cut legitimate businesses and illegally dispose of waste at sites that could put people at risk and damage the environment.
- Large scale illegal dumping of waste – such as lorries dumping waste. Local councils are responsible for dealing with incidents of fly-tipping.

## Signs to look out for

We can all look out for illegal waste operations. Suspicious behaviour may alert you to illegal waste sites. Look out for:



### Activity out of hours

**Increased numbers of lorries entering a site**



**Waste going in but not coming out**



## The cost of waste crime

Waste crime takes away £1 billion each year from legitimate business and HM Treasury. It affects people and harms the environment.

41% of active illegal waste sites are less than 50 metres from sites such as peoples' homes, schools, hospitals, and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Dust, odour, smoke and vehicle movements from these sites can have a detrimental effect on neighbouring communities.

Illegal waste operators create uncertainty for the legitimate waste industry and hold back investment in infrastructure that would help improve the environment. Waste crime affects the economy through tax avoidance, money laundering and fraud.

Smoke

An illustration showing a waste site with a pile of trash, including tires, behind a chain-link fence. Smoke is rising from the site, represented by several horizontal, wavy lines of varying shades of gray. The background is a dark gray sky.

Water pollution

An illustration showing a body of water in the foreground, colored in shades of blue and cyan. The water is positioned in front of the waste site fence, suggesting pollution. The background is a dark gray sky.

## You can report waste crime anonymously in 2 simple ways

1. Call Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
2. Give information online on the Crimestoppers website:  
[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

## Deal with your waste responsibly

Everyone who disposes of waste has a 'duty of care' to ensure it is handled safely and correctly. Whether you are a business, local council or householder you must make sure you know where your waste goes so it doesn't end up in the hands of illegal operators.

Make sure you know what your legal responsibilities are: manage your waste responsibly: [www.gov.uk/managing-your-waste-an-overview](http://www.gov.uk/managing-your-waste-an-overview).

Check the public register to see if a site is permitted or a waste carrier is registered: [www.gov.uk/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information](http://www.gov.uk/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information).

You can also visit the Right Waste Right Place website for helpful guidance on what to do with your waste: [www.rightwasterightplace.com/#intro](http://www.rightwasterightplace.com/#intro)

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