

[News story: Fly-tipping: New measures in government fight against waste crime](#)

Householders have a legal 'duty of care' to ensure they only give their waste to a licensed carrier. Today (26 November), new financial penalties of up to £400 for householders who fail to properly exercise this responsibility, and whose waste is found fly-tipped, have moved a step closer as legislation is laid in Parliament.

Potential fly-tipping by rogue operators, and the risk of a penalty, can be simply avoided by using certified waste carriers, which can be checked easily by visiting the [Environment Agency's website](#), where you can enter the business name or registration number to immediately confirm their status as an approved company.

The government has also [issued guidance](#) to ensure councils use these new powers proportionately and make clear fines should not be used as a means of raising revenue. To strike the right balance householders should not be fined for minor breaches, and the guidance also stresses that consideration should be given if the individual is a vulnerable person due to age related ill-health or a mental or physical disability.

The new penalties, which are expected to come into force early next year, will make it easier for councils to tackle fly-tipping and provide an alternative to putting cases through the courts which can be a lengthy and costly process.

In 2016-17 clearing up fly-tipping incidents [cost councils](#) in England £57.7 million, with around two thirds of all fly-tipped waste containing household waste.

[Latest figures](#) show our tough actions to crack down on fly-tippers are delivering results, with no increase in the number of incidents for the first time in five years.

Environment minister Thérèse Coffey said:

Fly-tipping is an unacceptable blight on our landscapes. Many people do not realise they have a legal duty to look up waste carriers and we want councils to step up and inform their residents.

We must all take responsibility and make sure our waste does not end up in the hands of criminals who will wilfully dump it and these new powers will help us to crack down on rogue waste carriers.

To tackle the potential over-zealous enforcement on households, in 2015 the Government removed criminal penalties for breaches of household bin requirements in favour of a new civil penalty system.

Councils were urged to use letters or notices on bins to remind households of appropriate practices, and this measured and balanced approach, set out in [further guidance](#) produced earlier this year, continues to allow councils to focus their efforts on the small minority who cause genuine harm to the local environment through irresponsible behaviour.

Today's move comes as the government publishes [the response to its consultation](#) on tackling poor performance in the waste sector more widely. New measures include a requirement for all waste facilities to have a written management plan to minimise the risks of pollution to the environment, and making it harder for applicants with relevant past offences to obtain a permit to operate a waste facility.

The involvement of serious and organised criminal gangs in the waste sector [appears to be increasing](#), and these gangs are often involved in large-scale dumping. Environment Secretary Michael Gove recently [commissioned](#) an [independent review](#) into organised crime in the waste sector. [Recommendations from the review](#) will be considered as part of the forthcoming Resources and Waste Strategy where we will set out our approach to tackling all forms of waste crime.

- We support local partners through the National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group (NFTPG) which has [published a series of fly-tipping prevention guides](#) for householders, businesses and landowners, outlining best practice for the prevention, reporting, investigation and clearance of fly-tipping.
- 88% of [councils agreed](#) a new fixed penalty notice would help tackle fly-tipping.
- A waste facility is any site with a permit to handle, treat, or store waste. Examples include recycling centres, tyre processors, and vehicle wreckers.
- Last year [councils issued](#) 69,000 on-the-spot fines for fly-tipping offences.