

FLY TIPPING ON PRIVATE LAND

What you need to know



If you're reading this leaflet, it's likely you've experienced fly-tipping on your land.

We're truly sorry you're facing this situation.

This guide is designed to provide clear, practical information to help you understand your responsibilities, rights, and the support available.



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CRIME TEAM**



Who is responsible for clearing the waste?

Unfortunately, landowners are legally responsible for removing fly tipped waste from their own property.

Local authorities are not obliged to clear waste from private land, but we will investigate reported incidents and pursue enforcement action where possible.

Your legal rights and responsibilities

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, landowners must ensure waste is disposed of safely and legally. If waste poses a risk to public health or safety, the council may issue formal notices requiring its removal.

If you arrange for waste to be cleared, it's essential to use a registered waste carrier to avoid further legal issues. Please follow the SCRAP code:

- **Suspect**– Be cautious of rogue waste collectors.
- **Check**– Verify their waste carrier licence via the Environment Agency (03708 506 506 or online).
- **Refuse**– Avoid unsolicited offers to remove waste.

- **Ask questions** – Find out where your waste is going.
- **Paperwork** – Always get a receipt with details of the waste and the carrier.

Thinking of burning the waste?

Please don't. Burning fly-tipped waste:

- Can damage your land and the environment.
- May be considered illegal waste treatment.
- Produces smoke and odours that can disturb neighbours.
- May release toxic fumes harmful to health.

If you're unsure how to proceed, contact our Environmental Crime Team for advice.

Can I recover the costs?

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence, punishable by an unlimited fine and/or up to five years in prison. Dover District Council investigates all reports and will pursue prosecution where evidence allows.

If you have information that may assist an investigation, please contact our team (details on the back of this leaflet).

While recovery of clean-up costs is only possible through a successful prosecution, we recommend keeping all receipts and invoices. If a suspect is identified, we may ask if you're willing to provide a witness statement to support the case.

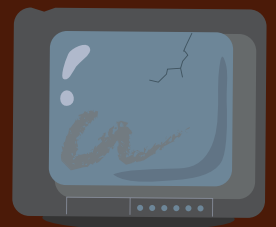
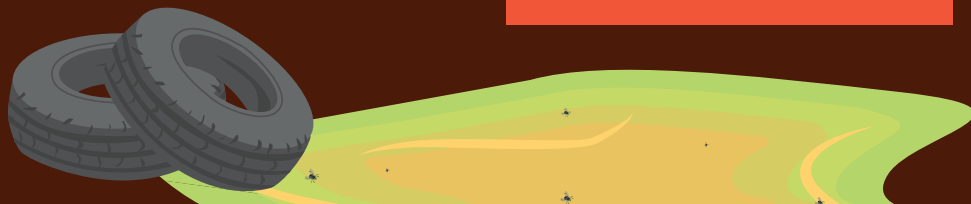
Also, check your land insurance policy – some may cover fly-tipping clean-up costs.

Preventing future incidents

There are steps you can take to reduce the risk of fly tipping:

- **Secure access:** Use gates, fences, bollards, or bunds.
- **Install deterrents:** CCTV, motion-activated lighting, and warning signage.
- **Maintain your site:** Promptly remove waste to discourage repeat offences.
- **Collaborate:** Work with neighbours, local businesses, and community groups.

We have a limited supply of fly tipping warning signs available for landowners. Please contact us to check availability.



What to do if it happens again

How to report fly tipping

- **Safety first!**

If fly tipping is in progress:

- **Do not confront the offender** – call 999 immediately

If you discover waste:

- **Do not search through it** – it may contain hazardous materials.
- **Record details:** time/date, description of waste, location and any additional information regarding who may be responsible.
- **Report it to our Environmental Crime Team as soon as possible.**

Your reports helps us take swift action and gather evidence to investigate and prevent further incidents.

You can report fly-tipping or contact our team for advice via:

- **Website:** www.dover.gov.uk/flytipping
- **Email:** envcrime@dover.gov.uk
- **Phone:** 01304 872289
- **Post:** Environmental Crime Team
Dover District Council
White Cliffs Business Park
Honeywood Close
Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ

