

Top tips for flytipping prevention

Your guide to beating the flytippers



Stay one step ahead of the flytippers

Abandoned waste is infuriating, especially when it's flytipped on your land.

There are over 60,000 incidents of flytipping in Scotland every year¹. Three-quarters of landowners say it's a major problem². Local councils prosecute flytippers when they can, but investigations are often expensive and robust evidence is hard to come by. Meanwhile, as a landowner, you have to foot the bill to remove any waste dumped on your land.

Whether you're looking to stop an existing problem or prevent one developing in the first place, this advice will help you stay one step ahead of the flytippers.



¹ ZWS Evidence Review of Flytipping behaviour [Report]

² Tackling Fly-tipping. A guide for landowners and land managers

Make it visible

Flytippers don't want to be caught in the act. Is your site in a remote location? Does it have a concealed entrance? Is it out of public view? When flytippers can operate unseen, your land is more likely to be a target.

A National Trust car park in Devon was plagued by flytippers. The organisation solved the problem by narrowing the entrance to stop larger vehicles getting in. They also removed a landscaped partition that was blocking the car park from view.

Deter the tippers

- Light up your site at night.
- If possible, monitor your land with CCTV.
- Clear overgrown vegetation.



Warn about the risks



It sounds simple, but reminding flytippers about the consequences of their actions can make them think twice.

Put up signs informing the public that your site is monitored for flytipping, and tell them exactly what's at stake.

- If caught, **they'll receive a £200 fine.**
- If prosecuted, the maximum **penalty is £40,000³.**

You can also let potential tippers know where they'll find the nearest disposal site – so there's no excuse for them not to do the right thing.

TOOLKIT

The ZWS Flytipping Prevention Communications Toolkit

The Toolkit is designed for local authorities and community groups. It's packed with effective ideas for hammering the prevention message home.

³ zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/litter-and-flytipping-legislation

Put up physical barriers

Dumpers want to drop-and-drive. Anything that slows them down is a powerful deterrent.



When a Forestry Commission (Scotland) site was targeted by flytippers, they faced a challenge: how could they keep the culprits out while keeping the land open for walkers and riders? The answer was some clever barrier design. They installed a fence with a lowered section – this stopped vehicles in their tracks but posed no problem for walkers, cyclists and wildlife.

Deter the tippers

- Secure your site with a fence.
- Add a gate to all entry points (and keep gates closed and locked when possible).
- Install barriers to keep large vehicles out – for example boulders, large logs, a mound of earth or retractable bollards.
- Close unnecessary entrances or lay-bys, so vehicles can't easily pull off the road.

Record and report



Reporting is an important part of flytipping prevention because it better equips authorities to track patterns of behaviour and catch repeat offenders.

However, penalties aren't just a punishment, they can put people off flytipping in the first place.

Doncaster City Council's Environmental Crime Officer says that convictions don't even have to be successful to be effective: "just the investigation process, taking them through it, can make people think twice about doing it again."

Deter the tippers

- Record as many details as you can.
- Contact your local authority, call **Dumb Dumpers** on **0845 2304090** or report it online at dumbdumpers.org.
- Take photos (if possible).

Stay safe

Don't put yourself at risk when reporting flytippers. They know what they're doing is illegal and won't take kindly to being caught. Never intervene, and only take notes or photos if you're absolutely certain you won't be spotted.



REPORT

Want to go further?



Think beyond your own site, and report flytipping you've seen on other land. This helps your local council build up a picture of flytipping activity.

REPORT

FlyMapper

Is a free online tool that lets you report and monitor flytipping. It's designed for local authorities and other land owners and managers.



Clean up and collaborate

The law says that waste left on your land is your responsibility. But that's not the only reason to clean up.



A 2014 study found that when people see flytipped rubbish around them, they're more likely to adopt the habit themselves.

And if an area is already a dumping hotspot, some will take it as a signal that it's fine to leave their waste there too.

Hamiltonhill Claypits is proof that cleaning-up is worth the effort. The area of land at Possilpark had become a dumping ground for all sorts of domestic and building waste. The Friends of Possilpark Greenspace intervened, organising a large-scale litter pick and installing barriers to deter the dumpers from coming back. The site has since earned Local Nature Reserve status⁴.

Forestry Commission⁵ (Scotland) also realised the importance of regular clean-ups. Some areas of forest are hard to get to, so need specialist litter-clearing equipment. They'd previously had to hire this, which limited clean-up efforts. Eventually, they decided to invest in their own kit to better maintain the land. Illegal dumping incidents are now few and far between.

⁴ ZWS Flytipping small grants scheme – Friends of Possilpark greenspace project

⁵ Tackling Fly-tipping, a guide for landowners and land managers, National Fly-tipping Prevention Group

Stay safe

Flytippers can leave everything from broken glass to hazardous chemicals. Never open bags or drums – and only clean up yourself if you're absolutely sure it's safe to do so.

COLLABORATE

Working together increases your chances of catching culprits. It also makes it more likely that you'll stop the problem once and for all, rather than just moving the flytippers onto neighbouring land.

Coordinate with other local landowners, authorities, organisations and businesses to share costs and maximise the impact of your efforts.

Repurpose unused space



Renfrewshire Council did just that when they tackled flytipping on Hillington Park Industrial Estate. Thanks to funding from Zero Waste Scotland, they put up a hoarding and asked students from West College Scotland to cover it with artwork. Each section showcased the work of a different student – a personal touch included to further deter flytippers. Since the hoarding went up, there hasn't been a single flytipping incident at the site

Flytipping hotspots tend to be areas of land with no clear use. Give an area a purpose or add some social value, and you're much less likely to suffer at the hands of flytippers.



Reuse Hub/ Camberwell , London

REPORT

Reuse hub



In London's Camberwell area, the Repurpose London programme established a recycling hub for local residents. It offers a collection and re-sale service for furniture and electrical items, and aims to offer residents a repair and upcycling service to give unusable items a new lease of life. It's hoped the service will help reduce the amount of flytipping, provide affordable household items and help residents develop new skills.