

Don't risk a fine, help reduce waste crime

Rubbish is a threat to the environment, human health and wildlife if it is not disposed of properly. Illegal dumping of waste (fly-tipping) cost the East Midlands area £3.1 million last year. 65 per cent of such incidents were classified as household waste. You can help the Environment Agency reduce this sort of crime.

If you need to dispose of waste outside of your normal weekly bin collections, take it to your local authority's Household Waste Recycling Centre. All households have a legal responsibility to ensure their waste is disposed of properly. If you choose to take your waste elsewhere it is your responsibility to check the site has a permit to accept the type of waste you are taking.

If you are hiring a skip or employing a tradesman who will be disposing of your waste, you need to check they are registered as a waste carrier. Fly-tipping is often rubbish which people have paid someone to take away.

The simplest way to check whether a site has a permit, or if a company or individual has a Waste Carrier's Licence, is to ask to see it. If they cannot produce their licence or if you are still unsure, you can telephone the Environment Agency on 0845 603 3113 or check our website www.environment-agency.gov.uk/waste

Remember, you risk prosecution and a fine of up to £5,000 if you have not taken reasonable steps to ensure your waste is disposed of responsibly. If you would like to report an incident of fly-tipping, please report it to your local council or to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060. Further information can be obtained by visiting the Environment Agency's website.