

WCCTV

The Ultimate Guide on Fly-Tipping Prevention

In the last five years, the number of fly-tipping reports in England alone have increased by over 20% and it has become one of the biggest problems for many businesses and organisations.

From rail networks to Local Authorities and Councils, fly-tipping plagues many industries with large clean-up costs and public safety risks, to name just a few of the side effects.

But with figures indicating that fly-tipping is only worsening as an issue, establishing a clear fly-tipping prevention plan is key to tackling the ever growing problem faced by many.



Why Has Fly-Tipping Risen Over Recent Years?

Compared to the year 2018/19 where 957,000 fly-tipping incidents were reported, recent figures showed there were 1.15 million incidents between 2023/24, reaching record highs.

2018/19: 957,000

2023/24: 1,150,000

Unfortunately, throughout this time incidents figures have increased every single year, showing no signs of slowing down. The COVID-19 pandemic caused a dramatic rise in fly-tipping cases as waste services and household recycling centres were temporarily disrupted to prioritise public safety at that time.

This, however, saw a spike in cases as individuals and businesses took matters into their own hands to remove household and bulky waste whilst waste removal solutions were placed on pause.

Why Has Fly-Tipping Risen Over Recent Years?

Although, in this instance, many Councils were able to react quickly by creating a safe process to remove waste during this time or alternative methods that minimised the risk of fly-tipping.

Over time, further positive steps with enforcement action, campaigns and introduction of funding support has allowed many industries to tackle the issue of fly-tipping. Most importantly, Public Sector organisations who are held responsible for this in most cases.

However, even with these improvements, other factors such as, bin strikes and tip closures have continued to place a strain on local areas and industries across the country who continue to face the long lasting effects of fly-tipping.

And as many organisations and Local Authorities are making successful steps to reduce and resolve fly-tipping, last year reported a 6% rise in incident numbers, indicating it as a prominent issue.



6% INCREASE

Fly-Tipping Prevention Methods

The economic state of the UK is ever-changing, leading to stretched budgets, a cost of living crisis and increased competition with funding, making the management of fly-tipping difficult.

Over time, further positive steps with enforcement action, campaigns and introduction of funding support has allowed many industries to tackle the issue of fly-tipping. Most importantly, Public Sector organisations who are held responsible for this in most cases.

The key fly-tipping prevention methods your business or organisation can implement to minimise fly-tipping figures and its consequences

- **Increased Surveillance and Monitoring**
- **Public Engagement Campaigns and Education**
- **Enforcement Action**
- **Data-Led Decision-Making**
- **Improved Waste Disposal Options**
- **Physical Barriers and Better Site Management**



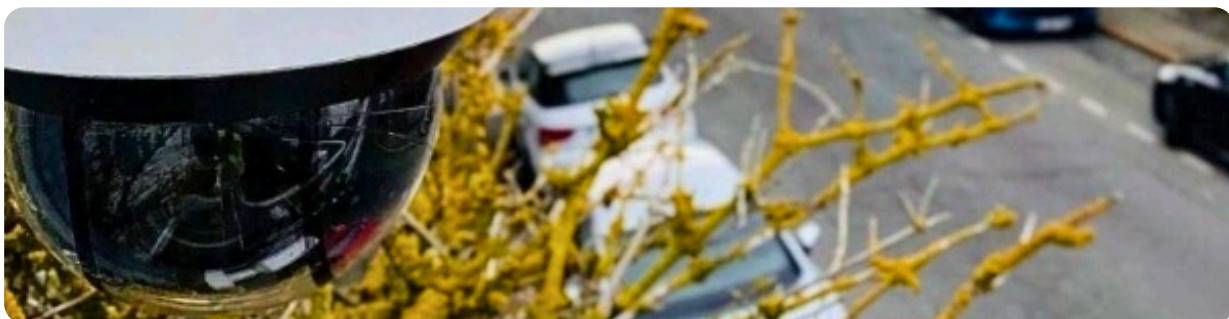
Increased Surveillance and Monitoring

The transition to mobile CCTV has enhanced fly-tipping prevention for many businesses and organisations.

No more static security that can only record events, systems now proactively monitor and record live footage, deploy audio deterrents and stop crime in its tracks.

Fly-tipping tends to collect in various hotspots and increasing the surveillance and monitoring within these locations can help to physically deter crime whilst gathering evidence to support in any legal proceedings.

Additionally, with mobile CCTV systems, they tend to offer rapid deployment and portability which allows you to move from one location to the next.



Public Engagement Campaigns & Education

Fly-tipping commonly involves an individual or household discarding waste illegally, with many being unaware or choosing to ignore the laws in place.

Public engagement campaigns and education can be utilised to combat this, sharing key information on fly-tipping, its effect, the legal consequences and how to report such crime.

Keep Britain Tidy is already incorporated into various Councils and organisations across the UK, encouraging those involved to reduce littering and promote environmental responsibility.

This ongoing initiative aims to inspire individuals and businesses to keep their surroundings clean and implement sustainable practices through further campaigns and educational programmes.

Other schemes such as community watch groups bring residents together to monitor and report incidents of fly-tipping.



Enforcement Action

For any individuals or businesses looking to fly-tip, if there is minimal enforcement action seen to be put in place, there's a higher likelihood for incidents to occur.

Criminals will be provided with a sense of security as there is an assumed lack of neglect being shown to prevent fly-tipping, and therefore that area or hotspot will appear as an easier target.

Ensuring enforcement action in incidents of fly-tipping will deter any potential offenders, showing them that legal repercussions are likely to occur if found to engage in the crime.

The type of enforcement actions will vary depending on the fly-tipping, however, offenders could be faced with the following:



Fixed Penalty Notices

On-the-spot fines for minor fly-tipping offences



Criminal Prosecutions

Varied forms of legal action can be taken against offenders found to be fly-tipping on a large-scale



Vehicle Seizures

The power to impound a vehicle involved in fly-tipping

Data-Led Decision-Making

Prevention is only as effective as you allow it to be and in order to provide this, you need to invest time and money into data research and reporting technology to help effectively tackle fly-tipping.

For Local Authorities or businesses with large land space, identifying fly-tipping hotspots will help implement targeted prevention tools at those locations.

This can be gained through an employee or external body compiling reports and mapping out where fly-tipping occurs the most.

Other cost-free solutions include engaging in a multi-agency approach where you seek additional support from other organisations and businesses to gain guidance or tools, and also gain external help.

Investing in a platform that provides insights into fly-tipping incidents information associated with this helps you cater the prevention provided to these issues.



Improved Waste Disposal Options

Over recent years, many areas' circumstances have changed due to stretched budgets and additional responsibilities which have led to tip closures, reduced hours and a rise in waste removal costs.

However, this decision has impacted incident numbers and where possible, waste disposal options should remain accessible or improved to discourage individuals and businesses from engaging in illegal activities.

Offering free, subsidised or low-cost bulky waste removal will help minimise the risk of large-scale fly-tipping involving white goods and more.

Other steps Public Sector organisations can take is to increase or improve Household Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to create more accessibility, and for rural location, offering mobile waste disposal services.

Although Local Authorities are the body held responsible for fly-tipping, businesses can also take steps to minimise their production of waste and remove the strain placed on waste disposal services.



Physical Barriers and Better Site Management

Improving your site management as a business or in vulnerable locations can help prevent fly-tipping by deterring any potential fly-tippers from doing so.

Where appropriate, placing physical barriers at these locations like installing gates, fencing and bollards may be effective depending on the environment.

Also, utilising landscaping to create physical barriers like planting trees, creating ditches and adding hedges can help restrict access to carry out fly-tipping.

Technology-led, mobile CCTV systems can even create invisible barriers that use lasers to form a security boundary around the specified location that triggers if broken.



What Prevention Methods Work Best?

Generally, the best fly-tipping prevention method(s) will depend on the location and other contributing factors, however, a blended approach is often recommended in all instances of security.

But, with stretched budgets and high urgency to reduce the impacts of fly-tipping, particularly the cleanup costs, most have been turning to mobile CCTV as their main form of prevention. Mobile CCTV offers the following benefits for tackling fly-tipping:



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