

Your duty to dispose of waste responsibly

As a householder, you have a legal obligation (Duty of Care) to take all reasonable measures to ensure that your waste is disposed of properly.

What are considered reasonable measures to ensure that householders comply with the duty of care?

Householders are encouraged to check with the [Environment Agency](#) website to see if the person/company they have selected to pass their waste onto are a [registered waste carrier](#).

If you are considering using someone from the free newspapers, classified publications, yellow pages or even door-to-door sales, you will need to ensure that the person/company is a registered waste carrier. You are also required to ensure you know where your waste is being taken for disposal.

The Environment Agency has a register of all [registered waste carriers](#) on their website or you can call them on **03708 506 506**.

Why do I need to ensure that my waste is disposed of correctly?

Following the Duty of Care will help to prevent waste crime. Unlicensed waste carriers are likely to cut corners in order to be able to offer their services at lower prices, unfairly undercutting legitimate businesses who take their environmental responsibilities seriously.

Unlicensed carriers may be tempted to illegally dump, or 'fly-tip', your waste to avoid the charges for proper disposal - not only does this have the obvious consequences of pollution and environmental damage, but the Council Tax payer has to fund the clear-up costs of waste dumped on public land, and landowners have to bear this cost themselves if waste is fly-tipped on private land.

I've put items out for the scrap metal dealer to collect - am I still responsible?

All legitimate scrap metal dealers who operate in Solihull are licensed. Before letting a scrap metal dealer take your items, please check that they have their license on them.

If they do not have a license, then it is advisable that you dispose of your household items by another means such as booking a chargeable [bulky waste collection](#) or taking the items to the [household waste recycling centre](#).

I've placed out a fridge/freezer for the scrap metal dealer to collect?

Please be aware that genuine scrap metal dealers may collect the whole fridge/freezer or they may only strip the metal parts off. It is your responsibility to ensure that fridge/freezer is disposed of correctly.

Rogue scrap metal dealers may appear to collect the whole fridge/freezer but may strip the metal parts and then fly-tip the rest. You are still responsible for this fridge/freezer. So please ensure that you are only using legitimate scrap metal dealers to collect your waste.

If the company I selected dump the waste then it is their fault and not mine?

If your waste is found to have been fly-tipped, you are obliged to provide us with details of who you gave it to, so that the matter can be taken up with that person directly. If you did not check that the person that you gave your waste to was authorised to accept it, and you cannot provide this information you may be prosecuted and run the risk of a £5,000 fine and a criminal record.

Do I need a waste carrier's licence to take my own waste to the household waste recycling centre?

No. Householders can still dispose of their own waste at the [household waste recycling centre](#) free of charge. If you are unable to take items to the household waste recycling centre, then you can book a chargeable [bulky waste collection](#).