

PRESS RELEASE

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Re-launch of Dumb Dumpers website

**dumb
dumpers**
STOP-LINE
0845 2 30 40 90

At an annual seminar, held at the Tolbooth in Stirling on Tuesday 2nd December, it was announced that a website dedicated to fly-tipping has been re-launched under a brand new design. Keep Scotland Beautiful, who oversee the Dumb Dumpers campaign for the Scottish Flytipping Forum, set up the website as a one-stop shop for anyone concerned about fly-tipping in their area.

The new, more functional, website, www.dumbdumpers.org has dedicated information for members of the public and land managers about who to contact about a fly-tipping incident, what to report, and an online report form. The website will also be used to provide information and guidance for enforcement officers and for sharing good practice.

Incidents of fly-tipping tend to increase over the festive season – Christmas trees left out to rot, unwanted electrical goods and decorations ditched in lay-bys – but this doesn't need to be the case: what many householders don't realise is that they can dispose of their waste FREE through their local recycling centre or civic amenity site. Councils also operate bulky uplift systems (some may charge a small fee but many offer a free uplift service) for those who are unable to move large items themselves.

Whether you are a householder or a business, dumping waste is illegal, and really dumb. If you do it, or if someone does it on your behalf, you can be prosecuted. So rather than taking the risk of being caught fly-tipping and fined £40,000, it's well worth going through the proper channels!

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This is not a victimless crime either; Keep Scotland Beautiful estimates that it costs council tax payers more than £11 million every year to clear up dumping from council land. It is also important to realise that farmers and other land managers have to meet the cost of clearing rubbish dumped on their land and this is costing them around £1,000 each every year.

To find out about the proper waste disposal facilities available in your area, please visit the Dump Dumpers website for their recommended [Disposal Options](#). Or if you see someone dumping rubbish illegally, please call the [Dumb Dumpers Stop Line](#) on 0845 2 30 40 90.

- Ends -

For further information please contact:

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Please visit www.dumbdumpers.org for further information about the Scottish Flytipping Forum and the Dumb Dumpers campaign.

Notes for Editors

- Keep Scotland Beautiful is one of Scotland's leading environmental charities, administering anti-litter campaigns under the Keep Scotland Tidy slogan along with the People and Places, Blue Flag and Eco Schools environment programmes, Waste Aware Scotland, Sustainable Scotland Network, Climate Challenge Fund and Going Carbon Neutral Stirling campaign.
- The Scottish Flytipping Forum comprises a number of organisations with an interest in flytipping and includes representatives of government, the enforcement agencies, land managers, business and householders.
- A fixed penalty notice of £50 can be issued on the spot to people caught fly-tipping, but if the case is taken to court fines of up to £40,000 can be issued. 41,000 cases of fly-tipping were reported in 2006/07.
- Members of the public can report fly-tipping incidents by calling the 24 hour, seven day a week dumb dumpers hotline on **08452 30 40 90**.
- Further information about fly-tipping is available at www.dumbdumpers.org.
- All householders in Scotland have access to free waste disposal through their local recycling centres, or civic amenity sites as they used to be called, and they can check the opening hours and facilities available by contacting their local authority or logging onto www.sort-it.org.uk.
- A total of 38,186 incidents of fly-tipping were reported in 2007/08. However, it is important to remember that the figures generated by Flycapture nationally are really just the tip of the iceberg and only relate to local authority land. Many private land owners such as the National Trust for Scotland, Forestry Commission, and farmers have substantial problems with fly-tipping and as yet this data is not collected.