

Fly-tippers

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Every hour in the in the UK, we throw away enough trash to fill the Albert Hall. And some of this rubbish ends up fly-tipped - dumped in country lanes, pretty woods, industrial estates, and even driveways.

Around 90,000 fly-tipping incidents take place in the UK every month, and this costs local authorities £50 million a year to clear up. But don't worry! Matt and Dan are on the trail. With their exciting James-Bond style tracking devices and hand-held computer systems, it won't take them long to expose and confront the perpetrators.

In this week's Rogue Traders we're after two particularly unappealing offenders. First, there's John from Barnet. He operates a company hilariously titled 'Tree-mendous', which ostensibly tends your garden, but actually tends to knock on doors offering to clear any waste hanging around in front gardens.

John's very cheap, but that's because he doesn't pay to offload the stuff at a licensed site. Instead, he drives around with it in his truck until he sees a house that seems to be empty. Then, in an instant, he backs into the drive, tips up the tipper, and offloads all the rubbish. That's right, he takes the rubbish from one front yard and dumps it in someone else's.

Our second offender lives in Kent. Alan Yarlett is a familiar figure with the Environment Agency. He has already stacked up an ASBO for burning rubbish, 240-hours community service and £11,500 worth of fines for fly-tipping and generally getting rid of rubbish in the wrong way.

When we called him out, he was again reluctant to pay to offload it legitimately, so he took the rubbish and dumped it in some ancient woodland, a place designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

But things are changing. The Environment Agency and local councils are extremely pro-active on fly-tipping, with many areas - including Kent and Barnet - employing specific enforcement officers to catch the offenders. Convicted fly-tippers can be fined up to £50,000.

So how do you do your part? The Environment Agency has a list of registered waste carriers. If you have some rubbish to be collected, make sure you employ a company registered with them.

It's in your interests too, as new legislation says that if you employ an unregistered fly-tipper, and the rubbish is traced back to you, you could be fined £5,000. So look up any company you're employing on the Environment Agency's website at **www.environment-agency.gov.uk**. Or call 08708 506 506 and it'll let you know whether your rubbish collector is naughty or nice.

Extract from www.bbc.co.uk