

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY BULLETIN: WASTE COOKING OIL THEFT

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Van with almost 1000 L of Stolen Waste cooking Oil [Derbys Police]



Fly-tipped cooking oil containers [Epping Forest Parks Authority]

There is an escalating trend concerning the theft of waste cooking oil from the hospitality and catering industry across the UK. Organised crime groups are thought to be behind this activity.

Waste cooking oil can be used for many different purposes including the production of biodiesel, which makes it highly lucrative to criminals.

It has previously been estimated that 20% of all waste cooking oil is stolen. With both fuel and cooking oil prices rising rapidly, the problem now appears to be escalating, with incidents occurring across the UK in both urban and rural areas.

The criminals stealing the waste oil are often committing other offences, such as driving without insurance, using false paperwork, not having a waste carriers licence and pretending to be from legitimate companies. The used oil containers are then often fly-tipped.

The Environment Agency is working with the Police and other partners in building a picture of this crime type. Please let Crimestoppers know if you have any information about this activity.

If you see or suspect a crime in progress, please call the Police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

INFORMATION REQUEST

- If you have any information please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or on their website.
- We are interested in details about:
 - hotspots of where cooking oil theft has been happening
 - vehicles suspected of being involved in waste cooking oil theft
 - any information about places where stolen waste cooking oil is going to