

SPRING CLEANING YOUR GARDEN? SAY NO TO DOORSTEP CALLERS



As the weather improves, many Kent residents begin tidying gardens and planning spring jobs. This is also when doorstep criminals start visiting rural villages and quieter bungalows offering gardening or landscaping work. **They appear friendly but often charge high prices for poor or unfinished work**, applying pressure to residents to accept work on the doorstep.

Doorstep criminals look for signs that a resident may be vulnerable. Garden tools left out or bags of compost near the door can be used to start a conversation. They will also look for unkempt gardens and target the property for a quick payday!

How Kent Trading Standards Checked helps
Our directory makes it simple for residents to find a safe, local gardener or trader. All businesses in our scheme are the **only ones in Kent checked by Kent Trading Standards**.

We check many aspects of the business like their licenses and accreditations, as well as their appropriate insurances and commitment to fair practice. This **gives you confidence when booking work**, especially in rural areas where unsolicited visits are more common.

FIND A SAFE, LOCAL TRADER

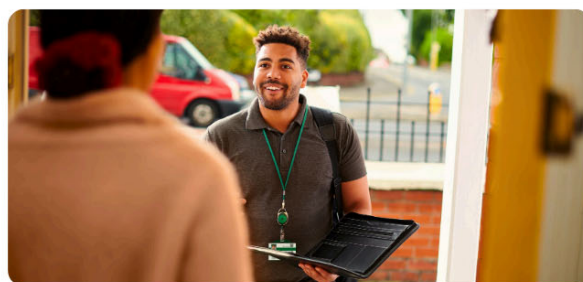


Scan the QR CODE

SIMPLE WAYS TO STAY SAFE:

- Never agree to work at the door.
- Always get written quotes.
- Don't get pressured into "today-only" prices designed to rush you.
- Check any trader online before agreeing to work, look at their customer reviews and examples of previous work.
- Always use a safe, local trader that's been vetted from Kent Trading Standards Checked
- Report suspicious doorstep activity to Kent Police by calling 101.

! If a crime is in progress and you are in immediate danger, call 999.



Trading Standards Checked is Kent County Council's trusted trader scheme for home improvement work. To find out more:

Visit kent.gov.uk/tschecked or
call 03000 416438