



The Blue Badge Scheme in Wales

What you can do and what you must do



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**.
It is an easy read version of 'The Blue Badge Scheme: Rights and Responsibilities in Wales'.

How to use this booklet



This is an easy read document. You may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

Website:

www.gov.wales/apply-or-renew-blue-badge



Hawdd ei Ddeall Cymru
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About this booklet

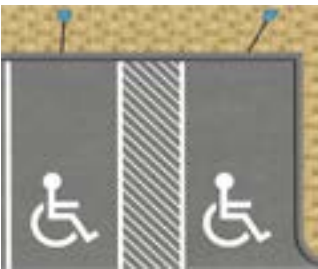


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We are the Welsh Government.



This booklet is about what you can do and what you must do if you have a **Blue Badge**.



The **Blue Badge** helps you park near where you need to go. You can be a passenger or driver.



Read this booklet before using your badge. Keep it to look at later.



If you have questions, ask your council. Your council is in charge of the **Blue Badge**.

You can write down your badge details here:

Blue Badge serial number. This is the number on your badge.

The council that gave it to you.

Address of the council.

Phone number of the council.

Blue Badge expiry date. This is the date your badge ends.

The date you can ask for a new badge.

What you must do



If you have a **Blue Badge** there are some things you must do.



You might still have to pay for parking. Always check signs.



Follow the rules when you use the **Blue Badge**. It is against the law to break the rules. You might have to pay £1000.



If someone drives you, tell them the rules in this booklet.



Look at the signs when you park.



Do not make a fake badge or change anything on it.



The **Blue Badge** rules are only for parking on the street.



Places like hospitals, shops and council car parks have different rules.

Who can use the badge



The badge is only for you.



Show it when you are a driver or a passenger. Or when someone picks you up or drops you off.



Do not let others use your badge to park unless you are with them. Even if they are doing something for you.



Do not give your badge to friends or family, even if they are visiting you.



No one should use your badge for themselves while you sit in the car.

Showing the badge



Show the badge when you park. Put it on the dashboard or bike, so people can see it. The dashboard is at the front of the inside of the car.



If your car does not have a dashboard, put it somewhere else. It must be where people can read it from outside.



The badge should be front side up, with the wheelchair sign showing.



Do not show the side with your photo.



Make sure the badge is clear to see. You may get fined if it is not.

Using the parking clock



When you park on yellow lines with time limits, show the clock.



Put it on the dashboard, so people can see the time from the front window.



The clock should show the **15 minutes** when you got there. If your car does not have a dashboard, put it somewhere else.



It must be where people can read it from outside.

Who can check the badge



Some people can check and take the badge. You must show it to them if they ask. They are:

- Police officers
- Traffic wardens
- Parking attendants
- Civil enforcement officers.



If you do not show them your badge you break the law. You could have to pay £1000.



They should show you their card with their picture.

Old badge



Check the date on your badge. Do not use it if it is past the end date.



Ask for a new badge 12 weeks before your badge end date.



You can ask your council or at the website [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



If you use an old badge you might have to pay a fine or go to court.

Giving back your badge



You need to give the badge back to your council if:



- You get better and do not need it.



- You lose it, get a new one and find the old one. Then you must give back the old one.



- The badge is broken or hard to read.



- You do not want it.



- The person who had the badge dies.



Do not use the badge when you do not need it. You might have to pay £1,000 or go to court.



Your council can take back the badge if you use it in the wrong way.

If you lose your badge



Tell the police if you lose your badge, or it is stolen.



Then tell your council the **crime reference number** from the police.



Your council will give you a new badge. You might have to pay £10 pounds.

Driving



Tell the **DVLA** (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency) if you drive and have a problem that makes driving hard even with an adapted car.



Call: 0300 790 6806



Post: DVLA
Swansea
SA99 1TU



Email: eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk

Contacting your council



You need to tell your council if something changes, like:



- Your badge is past its end date.



- You have lost your badge, or it is stolen or broken.



- You move to a different address.



- You change your last name.



- Your photo on the badge does not look like you now.

What you can do

Parking with a Blue Badge



The **Blue Badge** does not let you park everywhere.

Where you can park with a Blue Badge

Yellow lines



You can park on single or double yellow lines for 3 hours. You must park safely and not block the way.



If there are signs that say no loading or unloading check before you park. Some places let you, some do not.



Show your **Blue Badge** and the clock with the time you got there.



Wait **1 hour** before parking the same car in the same street on the same day.



You cannot park on yellow lines in car parks that are not on the street.



Parking meters and machines on a street

Some councils let **Blue Badge** holders park for free. Others do not. Check before parking.



Show your **Blue Badge**.



Parking spaces for disabled people on a street. There will be a blue wheelchair sign



Park for free and for as long as you need unless signs say different. Look at the signs.



Show your **Blue Badge**.



If these spaces are there, use them. Do not park on yellow lines.

Places you need to check before parking



Check the rules before you park. Ask the place if you are not sure.

Car parks that are not on the street. Like at shops, hospitals, or council car parks



Car parks may have spaces for disabled people.



The people who run the car parks choose if **Blue Badge** holders have to pay.



Check signs for rules and if you have to pay.



Town centres

Check for signs as towns have different rules.

Places with free parking on the street for anyone



Park for as long as you need unless signs say different. Check signs before parking.



If there is a time limit, show the blue clock with the time you got there.



Roads at airports

Contact the airport to ask how to park before you go.



Roads that belong to someone

Do not park unless the person who owns the road says you can.

Places where you cannot park



- Roads with yellow marks or signs that say no loading or unloading.



- Spaces for residents, permit holders or loading bays.



- Pedestrian Zones. These are places just for people to walk, unless signs say you can park.



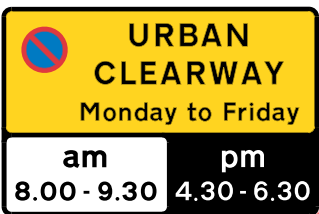
- Where people cross the road, including zigzag lines.



- Where you cannot stop at all.



- Bus stops.



- Urban clearway. This means no parking in the city at certain times. You can only pick up or drop off people.



- Near schools with yellow **Keep Clear** markings.



- **Keep Clear** marking in other places. Like where ambulances need to go.



- Bus, tram, or bike lanes. You cannot drive in bus lanes when they are in use.



- Roads with 2 white lines in the middle. Even if one is not solid.



- Where meters are not working or not allowed.



- Where no one is allowed to park for a while. Like if there are cones that say no waiting.



- By lower kerbs, with or without **H** bars. This is a marking on the road that looks like a letter **H**.

Safe parking



Park safely and not in the way of people or cars.

Do not park on pavements that block wheelchairs or people walking.

Do not park in these places, or others like them:



- Near schools, bus stops, hills, or bridges.



- Within 10 metres of a corner. Unless there is a marked parking space.



- Narrow roads.



- Gates or driveways.



- Where ambulances need to go.



- Low kerbs.



- On pavements, unless signs say you can.



If you park where you cause danger, you may have to pay money or go to court. Your car and badge could be taken.

Blue Badges for organisations



The rules next are for organisations. They must also follow the earlier rules for **Blue Badge** holders.



Organisations can ask for their own **Blue Badge** from the council.



You must look after **and** transport disabled people who need a **Blue Badge**. You can only use the badge for this.



The organisation's badge has its stamp or logo on it, not a photo. Do not show this side of the badge.



Only use the badge when driving people who could get a **Blue Badge**. Show the badge when the organisation's car or van drops off or picks up people.



Do not copy or change the badge. The council will take it back if you use it in the wrong way.



Workers must not use the badge for themselves or other things. All workers should know the rules in this booklet.



It is against the law to use the badge in the wrong way. You could have to pay £1,000 or go to court.

Giving back an organisational badge



As well as what **page 13** says, give the badge back if the organisation:

- Closes down.
- Does not look after people who could get a **Blue Badge**.
- Does not need the badge.



Tell the council if the organisation moves address.

Other information



There are other rules when you travel outside Wales.



Low Emission Zones in the UK

These are areas where you might have to pay if your vehicle makes a lot of fumes.



Go to www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones. Check rules and costs before travelling.



Toll Concessions

Tolls are fees you have to pay on some roads or bridges. Blue Badge holders may not have to pay tolls at some places.



Find out more at www.gov.uk/toll-concessions



Travelling in London

The Blue Badge scheme does not work in some parts of Central London. Contact the London borough or go to www.gov.uk/find-local-council.

Central London Congestion Charge Scheme



This is a charge people have to pay in drive in some parts of London.

With your badge you do not have to pay the Congestion Charge. But you must register with Transport for London and pay £10, 10 days before your trip.



Go to:

www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/cc-blue-badge-before-you-begin-29758



Write to: Congestion Charging

PO Box 344

Darlington

DL1 9QE



Phone: 0343 222 2222

Text or phone: 020 7649 9123.

Travelling out of the UK



You can print and show a translation paper with your badge when outside the UK.



You can get them from:

www.disabledmotorists.eu/en/world_map/europe/europe.htm

This has information about different countries in Europe.



www.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/transport-disability/index_en.htm

This has advice from the European Commission.



European Union, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

You can use your UK Blue Badge in:

- Some European Union countries
- Liechtenstein
- Norway
- Switzerland.



Check which countries at GOV.UK:

[Using a Blue Badge in the European Union.](#)



Check [GOV.UK](#) for new information. Check local information before travelling.

Rest of world



You cannot usually use the badge outside the European Union. Like in the USA, Canada, Australia or New Zealand. Some countries may accept the badge. Check before travelling.

Find out more



If you have questions, ask your council. Your council is in charge of the Blue Badge.

To get more copies of this booklet:



E-mail: CustomerHelp@gov.wales



Phone: 0300 0604400



You can get this booklet in Welsh. You can write to us or call us in Welsh.