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## Garden Information

The standard for Council gardens



*Housing*



**SWINDON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# Garden Standard

## What is the Garden standard?

This is the minimum level to which the Council asks you to maintain your garden.

Your tenancy conditions states the following:

*“You must keep the garden (if any) in a reasonable and tidy condition.”*

## Who does it apply to?

These standards apply to all tenants who:

- *Have a tenancy with their own garden*
- *Have use of shared gardens, such as communal gardens*
- *Use communal paths and access ways*



## Expected Garden Standard for:

### Grass

This should, at all times, be no longer than 10 centimetres in length.

### Shrubs and Plants

These should not overhang paths, neighbours' gardens or access ways.

### Hedges

Hedges should be below 2 metres high and should not overhang pathways in a way that may be dangerous to others.

### Trees

Trees should be kept manageable and should be removed if causing structural damage or are dangerous. Branches should not be left in a dangerous condition for example, overly long or broken and subsequently hanging down from the tree.

### Litter and Waste

The garden should be kept clear of litter and waste at all times.



### Bins and Bin Areas

All household waste should be stored in the wheelie, or communal, bins provided and no rubbish should be left in bags, in the garden or next to wheelie bins.

### Communal Areas

Rubbish should be stored and disposed of in the appropriate location.

### Garden Assistance Scheme

If you are disabled or elderly the Council may be able to assist you with your garden. There will be a small weekly charge for this service. Please contact your **Neighbourhood Housing Officer on 01793 445503**.

## Vehicles, Parking and Dropped Kerbs

If a vehicle is to be stored in the garden, you must have an authorised dropped kerb and hard standing parking (minimum size for a hard standing is 4.8m x 2.4m). This will be at your own expense.

Applications for a dropped kerb or hard standing drive should be made to: Street Works, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH Tel: 01793 466380.



### Your tenancy conditions states the following:

*“You must ensure that members of your household, or visitors, do not park vehicles on footpaths, pavements, grassed verges, greens or any other open area in or about the estate.”*

## Large Items

These should be removed using large item collection service by ringing **01793 445501**. There is a small charge for this service.

**NB:** Large items can also be taken to the household recycling centre and disposed of free of charge.

## Sheds and Outbuildings

These should not be filled with rubbish. They should not be used for storage of general household waste, unless it is waiting for disposal on/or during the next bin collection.

## Recycling

If you are having problems recycling, an officer from the Waste Management Team can be contacted on **01793 445501**.

## Pets

Your tenancy agreement gives information about keeping pets. It is your responsibility to ensure:

- All dog fouling is cleared up
- Where a dog is allowed in the garden that adequate fencing is installed and maintained to prevent the dog entering other gardens.



## How we will deal with Untidy Gardens

When a garden falls below an acceptable standard, we will start talking to you and working with you to get the garden up to a reasonable standard.

**If all our attempts fail to get the garden improved, then we will recharge, or take legal action, to reinforce the standard.**



## Useful Contacts

Garden Projects Officer	01793 464483
Household Waste Recycling Centre	01793 445501
Neighbourhood Wardens	01793 464081
Neighbourhood Housing Officer	01793 445503
Waste Management	01793 445501
Environmental Health Dept	01793 445500
Assisted Collection	01793 445501
StreetSmart	01793 445501

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It can be produced in a range of languages and formats (such as large print, Braille or other accessible formats) by contacting the Customer Services Department.

Tel: 01793 445500 Fax: 01793 463982 E-mail: [customerservices@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@swindon.gov.uk)