

Blue Badge Frequently Asked Questions

➤ Can I apply for Blue Badge?

Anyone can apply for a badge, although there are a number of criteria that you must meet to be successful in your application. To check whether you are eligible please click on the link on our website to 'apply online'.

➤ How do I apply for a Blue Badge?

The best and quickest way to apply for a Blue Badge is to follow the link on our website to apply online at [direct.gov](https://www.direct.gov). You can also find a printable version of the application form on our website if you prefer to complete it by hand. Application forms can also be obtained by calling Parking Services on 01225477133 or by visiting one of our One Stop Shops.

➤ How much does it cost for a Blue Badge?

It costs nothing to apply but a charge of £10 is applicable to all successful applications. This is the maximum charge for a Blue Badge set by Government. This fee may also apply to replace a lost, stolen or damaged/worn badge. Please be aware that third parties who provide an assistance service (mostly on the internet) may charge you considerably more.

➤ What is meant by certified identification?

We have a responsibility to check your identity to reduce potential fraud. You must include a certified photocopy of either a Birth/Adoption Certificate, Marriage/Divorce Certificate, Civil Partnership/Dissolution Certificate, Valid Driving Licence or Valid Passport. We are unable to accept any other form of identification. If you do not have the other forms of identity listed then you will have been issued with a Birth Certificate; if you've lost your original certificate then you can obtain a copy from the [Registrar](#). Certification of the document simply means that a person of responsibility has signed the photocopy to verify that that it is a true likeness of the original document. Please do not send in original identification documents as we can't guarantee their safe return.

➤ Will I need to have medical?

A medical check will not be necessary, however the majority of our applicants are sent for an Independent Mobility Assessment (IMA). The IMA is a face to face assessment with an appropriate healthcare professional (usually a Physiotherapist). Following this assessment, an applicant who is clearly eligible may also be awarded a Blue Badge without the need for any future evaluation. The assessment will help us to evaluate your mobility needs independently of your existing care and treatment. A supporting letter from your GP is not required unless specifically requested by the Blue Badge team.

➤ How can I provide proof of address?

We need to check that you are resident in this local authority area to be able to issue you with a badge. The easiest way to do this is by giving us consent to check the Council Tax database or Electoral Register (depending on your circumstances).

Alternatively you can send an original Council Tax bill, but it must bear your name and be dated within the last 12 months. For a child under 16 you can give consent to check the School Records.

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➤ What sort of photograph is required?

A recent passport-style colour photograph is required. This must have been taken in the last 3 months so you can't submit a photograph which has been used for a previous Blue Badge. When applying online, the photo can be uploaded with the application. Photographs can also be sent via email to blue_badge@bathnes.gov.uk. If you choose to complete a paper application you must ensure that the applicant's name is clearly written on the reverse of the photo. The photograph itself does not require certification on the rear. We are unable to return photographs once an application is complete.

➤ How long does it take to process my application?

Generally we advise 6-8 weeks to allow for the complete process. It's essential that an existing badge holder re-applies for their badge well in advance of its expiry. The process is often considerably shorter; however it does depend on all the relevant documentation being received. You should read the Guidance Notes before submitting an application. If the Blue Badge team has to contact an applicant for missing/incorrect documentation, it will increase the processing time.

➤ Do I need to complete all sections of the form?

If you've had a badge before and you're applying because it's about to expire you must complete the form as if it were a new application. There is no renewal form/process. You only need to complete the sections that are relevant to your individual circumstances. If you're filling out the paper form Sections 1 and 6 must be completed by all applicants. Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 are all specific to you and your disability. If you need assistance to complete the form then please call Parking Services or visit one of our One Stop Shops.

➤ Where do I get proof of my qualifying award?

If you qualify for a badge automatically you need to provide supporting evidence to show this. The proof required varies depending on the benefit you receive. You must contact the relevant Government agency to obtain proof of entitlement, please see the Guidance Notes section of the paper application form for contact details. The supporting benefit award letter must be dated within the last 12 months. If you are assisting with an application for a person who is registered blind you can give us consent to check the local authority register of blind people as an alternative to sending in supporting documents.

➤ Where can I use my badge?

Every successful applicant will receive a copy of *The Blue Badge scheme: rights and responsibilities in England* leaflet. The guidance in this leaflet should be used in conjunction with the *Highway Code*. A Blue Badge will help people to park close to their destination, either as a driver or passenger in a vehicle. However it's important to remember that the Blue Badge is not a licence to park anywhere. Off-street car parks, such as those provided by a local authority, hospital or supermarket are governed by separate rules and as such the concessions available vary greatly. Generally the operator will charge and therefore you should check operator websites or car park signage for details.