

## 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?**

To apply for a Blue Badge please follow the link on our website to apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge>

➤ **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 form of identification is acceptable?**

We have a responsibility to check your identity to reduce potential fraud. When using the online service you will be asked to upload 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](#). If you are sending supporting documents by post 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. Prior to the submission of an online application all applicants must agree to a set of declarations before they are able to submit the application. The declaration states the following: "The council can check any information they already hold about an applicant so that they can process their application". For the purpose of verifying residency we will check the Council Tax Database or the electoral register.

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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 and should not have been used on 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](mailto:blue_badge@bathnes.gov.uk).

➤ **How long does it take to process my application?**

Please be advised that Blue Badge applications typically take between 6-12 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.

➤ **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. 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 as being severely sight impaired you can give us consent to check the local authority register 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 supermarkets 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.