

The Blue Badge Scheme

A Blue Badge allows people with disabilities and some medical conditions to park closer to destinations. Blue Badges are not assigned to specific vehicles and the badge holder does not need to be the driver to be entitled to a Blue Badge or use one.

Blue badges usually last up to 3 years before needing to be renewed and cost £10 in England.

Eligibility

Some people are automatically eligible for a Blue Badge if they-

- Are registered as blind.
- Are in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of DLA.
- Are in receipt of the mobility component of PIP with 10 points in the 'planning and following journeys' section.

A person may still be eligible without any of the above but will need to complete an assessment process through their local council. Eligibility can be checked online using the [gov.uk](https://gov.uk/blue-badge) eligibility tool. Other eligibility criteria includes but is not limited to:

- The person is unable to walk.
- The person has severe mobility problems or difficulty walking or is unable to walk unaided.
- The person has a child under the age of 3 with a medical condition that requires them to be accompanied with large amounts of medical equipment.
- The person is persistently a significant risk to themselves or others when walking or when near vehicles.
- The person has a hidden disability such as autism or anxiety.

Applying

Blue badges can be applied for online on the government website or through your local authority. It can take 12 weeks or more to assess a blue badge application. If an application is refused, you can ask for a reconsideration.