



Disabled Badge Parking in Dacorum

To use the exemptions made available under the blue badge scheme, badge holders must display a **valid** disabled badge fully and correctly on the dashboard of their vehicle. The front side of the badge showing the expiry date, the issuing authority and the issuing European Union country symbol must be clearly visible.

If your badge is properly displayed, you may park:

- **On single and double yellow lines, for up to three hours**, except where there is a loading ban (see below). When you park on yellow lines, you must also set your time clock to your arrival time and display it with your badge.
- **In a marked disabled bay.**
- **In a marked pay and park bay**, free of charge and without time limit.
- **In a Controlled Parking Zone, in shared use bays** (where the bay in question may be used to pay and park).
- **In a restricted parking zone, in designated disabled bays** during the periods shown on zone entry signs, or next to the bay.

You may not park:

- **On yellow lines where there is a loading ban.** This will be shown by yellow stripes on the kerb.
- **In a bus stop, loading bay, taxi rank, suspended bay, coach bay or clearway.**
- **Outside of a marked disabled or pay and display bay in any Dacorum Borough Council car parks.** For example, within our car parks you may not park in areas marked by double or single yellow lines, or hatching.
- **In the part of Berkhamsted High Street marked as a restricted parking zone by zone entry signs.** Within this zone, you may not park in marked loading bays or areas marked by double or single yellow lines.
- **In a residents' permit bay in a Controlled Parking Zone**, during the periods shown on zone entry signs, or signs next to the bay (even if white advisory disabled bay markings are present – these are for specific residents only). View our Controlled Parking Zones and hours of operation at: www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/community-living/parking-and-travel/resident-parking-permits

Common reasons badge holders receive penalty notices

- **The badge is not clearly displayed.** Users must fully display the front side of the badge showing the expiry date, the issuing authority and the issuing European Union country symbol whenever the badge is used.
- **The time clock is not clearly displayed or is not set correctly to the time of arrival.**
- **The badge has expired.** Expired badges must not be used – there is **no** 'grace period'.
- **The details on the badge are faded or unreadable.**
- **The three-hour time limit for parking on yellow lines has been exceeded.**
- **The vehicle is parked incorrectly** (see above for areas badge holders may not use).

Points to note

The badge may only be used if the named badge holder is either a driver or passenger of the vehicle. The badge may NOT be used by a person doing an errand on behalf of a badge holder.

Do not assume that badge holders can park anywhere. Always check lines and signs before leaving the vehicle. Restrictions can and do change, and may have done so since the vehicle was last parked in a particular area.

Be aware of safety. Badge holders must **not** cause danger to other road users.

Please read carefully any information received when the badge was issued.

The badge should never be left in a vehicle when it is not in use as this makes the vehicle more likely to be broken into or vandalised. Please remember that disabled badges are a valuable benefit and should be looked after carefully.

If a badge needs to be renewed or replaced, it is the holder's responsibility to do so. Please contact the badge issuer. As noted above, expired badges may not be used – there is **no** grace period.

The maximum penalty for misuse of a badge is £1,000. The badge can also be withdrawn if the badge holder misuses it, or allows others to misuse it.

Our policy on issuing penalty charge notices

The level of misuse of blue badges by unauthorised users, who take up parking spaces which could be used by genuine badge holders, has risen in recent years.

In order to try and minimise the inconvenience and distress this can cause genuine badge holders, this council does all it can to reduce abuse of the blue badge system. That is why we **always** issue a penalty charge notice when a badge is not being used correctly. If we then receive a challenge to the penalty, we look at the case again, and make a decision on whether to cancel the penalty or uphold it, based on the particular circumstances.

In cases where the disabled badge or clock was not displayed correctly, but the vehicle was parked in an area where badge holders **are** allowed to park, provided there are no exceptional circumstances, a first penalty is often cancelled.

For more information or help, please call Parking Services on 01908 223505.

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