

# Permit Parking Schemes



## What is a permit parking scheme?

Permit parking schemes help residents, local businesses and their visitors/customers park more easily in their neighbourhood.

Parking restrictions manage who can park on the street, and for how long.

Permit schemes work across a zone, usually containing about 10-15 streets. Properties within a zone can buy permits which allow them to park in the local streets.

A parking permit applies to a particular permit zone, and permit holders can park in any of the streets in that zone.

Vehicles without a valid permit will be subject to a maximum stay time limit. This prevents all-day commuter parking, freeing up spaces for local people and short-stay visitors. Visitors to

local properties can be given visitor vouchers which act as a temporary permit, meaning they can stay all day.

Some roads may be reserved for permit holders only in particularly congested residential areas.

## What does it mean for local people?

A permit scheme gives local people/organisations priority for on-street parking, making it more likely local people, their visitors and customers can find a space quickly and easily.

However, local residents and businesses are required to pay for permits and visitor vouchers, and there are limits on the number of permits and vouchers each household/business can buy.



## What types of permit are available?

This table gives a summary of the types of permits available, their cost, and the maximum number of permits each property can buy.

Type of Permit	Annual Cost	Maximum
Resident Permit	£50 for 1st, £100 for 2nd	Two permits per household
Reduced Charge Permit 'Eco' cars (Vehicle Excise Duty Band 'A')	1st Permit - £0 (free) per year 2nd Permit - £50 per year	Two permits per household
Reduced Charge Permit Motorcycles under 300cc (motorcycles over 300cc require a normal Resident Permit)	1st Permit - £25 per year 2nd Permit - £50 per year	Two permits per household
Business Permit Business Permit for Imperial Square Cheltenham	£250 each £850 each	Two Permits per business Two Permits per business
Carers Permit	Free of Charge	No Limit
Visitor Voucher	£10 per set of 10 (£1.00 per voucher)	50 per household per year
Waivers	£10.00 for the first day and £5.00 for every consecutive day PER VEHICLE (Mon – Fri works out at £30.00)	

**Eligible households** - are those with a business or household within a permit zone.

**Residents Parking Permit** - Eligible households can purchase up to two resident parking permits. Residential permits will be issued to a specific vehicle and registration number. They can be purchased monthly, and if bought in this way, transferred between different vehicles each month. The charge for monthly permits is simply 1/12th of the annual cost. Resident's permits will be issued virtually – you will not have a paper permit to display in the windscreen.

**Visitor Vouchers** – Eligible residential properties can purchase up to 50 visitor vouchers per year. Visitor vouchers apply for one calendar day and are issued to a specific visiting vehicle. They are issued virtually – you will not have a paper voucher to display in the windscreen. You do not need to buy a permit to be able to buy visitor vouchers. Businesses cannot buy visitor vouchers.

**Business Parking Permit** – Eligible businesses will be able to purchase up to two Business parking permits. Business permits can only be bought

annually, and will be issued as a paper permit to display in the windscreen. Business permits will not apply to a specific vehicle and can be interchangeable between vehicles.

**Carer permits (Free)** – Those providing essential care to someone who lives within the scheme will be issued with a carer permit, free of charge. Professional organisations and non-professional carers (e.g. family members, etc.) are eligible for carer permits. Proof that an individual requires care in their home will need to be supplied before a permit is issued. Carer permits will be issued virtually – you will not have a paper permit to display in the windscreen.

**Waivers** - A waiver (or Tradesmen) permit can be used to be able to park a vehicle in a specified location when no visitors' permits are available, or the vehicle is required to park on yellow lines within a location for carrying out works on a property.

The permit does not need to be displayed in the vehicle, as the enforcement officers have access to a real-time list of vehicles that are covered by the waiver permits in the location.

## Who can buy a Parking Permit?

Firstly, a household/business must be within the permit zone boundary defined for each scheme.

To be eligible for a Resident Parking Permit, council tax payments must come directly from the household.

Should a tenant's council tax be included in their rent payment, ordinary practice would be for the landlord to purchase permits and make them available to tenants at their discretion. Application directly from tenants in these cases will be considered on a discretionary basis. Points that will be considered include; the number of rented units in the property; the size of the units in the rented property; and the permanency of the letting arrangements.

The council reserves the right not to issue permits to some buildings with very high multiple occupancy or offering temporary or short stay accommodation.

Business permits will only be available to businesses that operate from premises within the zone, and pay rates on the property. There will be no allocation of visitor vouchers to businesses.

Carers Permits will be issued free of charge to those residents who can show a need for care at home – this may be a letter from Social Services, or a district nurse indicating a requirement for such a permit. All carers' permits will be issued on a discretionary basis.

## How are permits issued?

### **Resident Permit, Visitor Vouchers & Carer Permits**

GCC use a 'virtual permit' system. The registration numbers of vehicles with valid permits or vouchers are recorded. Enforcement officers check this information using hand held computers as they patrol.

Residents can manage their permits and visitor vouchers through an online account, or over the phone.

Resident permits can be bought on a monthly basis, at one 12th of the annual charge.

Paper permits and visitor vouchers are **no longer issued**.

### **Business Permits**

Business permits are issued as paper permits to be displayed in the vehicles windscreen. They can be transferred between vehicles.

## When do permit schemes operate?

The times and days a scheme operates varies from scheme to scheme to reflect local issues and periods of parking congestion. In general, operating times are designed to match local car parks, but take account of local factors such as night-time attractions etc. Suitable operating hours are developed through discussions with local people during consultation.

Outside the hours / days of operation, any vehicles will be able to park, without time limit and without needing a permit or voucher.

## FAQs

### **Why is there a charge for permits?**

A charge is made for permits to cover the costs of enforcing and administering the scheme. The Council has a policy that the costs of permit schemes should be covered by those that benefit from them, and not subsidised from wider Council funds.

### **Do permit schemes mean Pay & Display?**

No. Most permit parking areas in Gloucestershire allow non-permit holders to park for a couple of hours free of charge. This helps support local businesses by helping their customers park easily.

In some areas Pay & Display may be included to address particular issues, but this is not the norm.

### **What happens if I need more than two permits/50 Visitor vouchers?**

These limits are set to give everyone a fair chance of parking in congested areas. Additional permits / vouchers will not be issued. No single property will be eligible for more than two permits in any circumstances.

### **Does a permit guarantee me a parking space?**

No. Spaces are not allocated to specific properties or permits. A permit scheme simply reduces parking congestion, and gives people a much better opportunity to park in their neighbourhood.

### **What happens if I need a tradesman to work on my property?**

There are a number of options:

For short jobs, tradesmen can park in shared use areas up to the maximum stay period.

For longer jobs, tradesmen can apply for a waiver, which allows them to park in the area whilst carrying out work on local properties – a small administration charge is made for waivers. Alternatively, residents can give the tradesmen one of their allocation of visitor vouchers.

### **Do Blue Badge holders need a permit as well?**

Local residents that are Blue Badge holders would still need to buy a permit to park for long periods in the permit zone. In locations where non-permit holders can park, Blue Badge holders can park for up to 3 hours, free of charge, as normal. Blue Badge holders must display the badge and clock, **visible within the vehicle.**

### **What does Virtual Mean?**

The Permits are issued electronically by means of a central computer system and the enforcement officers will be aware of your permit via handheld computers used as part of their patrols. You will therefore not need to display a paper permit in your vehicle.

### **Are refunds given if I move house?**

As stated in our Terms + Conditions, no refunds will be given. Permits can be purchased annually or monthly.

For more information see our website [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/parking](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/parking) or contact us at [parking@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:parking@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

