

How to Park

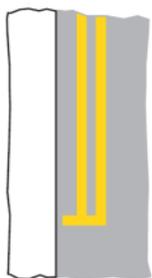
Parking incorrectly, such as on double and single yellow lines, in a bus lane, across cycle lanes, even for a few minutes, can cause inconvenience and even danger to other road users and pedestrians.

North Somerset District Council hopes that by enforcing parking regulations motorists will be more inclined to park safely and legally. This will therefore reduce the inconvenience and danger placed upon other road users every day.

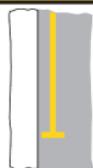
Following these simple rules will help you to park in a way that doesn't cause inconvenience to other members of the public:

- Always check the lines on the road and, where applicable, the signs by the side of the road and make sure you have parked within the bay markings. If markings are on the road on the outside of a bay then a Sign is not always required.
- Make sure that none of your vehicles wheels are resting on the yellow line(s) or other restriction such as hatched markings, dropped kerbs etc.
- In car parks and pay and display areas always make sure you read the signage and purchase the appropriate pay and display ticket in accordance with the instructions on the signage and display it so that it can be seen once you secure your vehicle.
- Do not stay longer than is permitted by the signs or by the ticket you have purchased.
- Do not block entrances to private properties, or Double Park.
- Do not park on footways/pavements. Restrictions extend to the edge of the carriageway, this includes the pavement. You would be in contravention of the restrictions even if there are no wheels on the actual roadway.
- Do not park on pedestrian crossings or the white zig-zag markings near to the crossing.
- Do not park on 'School Keep Clear' markings or the yellow zig-zag markings near to schools
- All restriction and conditions are in force 24/7 unless stated otherwise on local signage.
- CEO's will not enter any premises to give advice before or after they issue a PCN. If the driver is with the vehicle they will give them time to correct their actions unless they are parked on a zig-zag or have already been advised.
- Once the issuing of a PCN had been started (when the vehicle registration is entered) the CEO cannot retract the ticket, there is no cancel button. Handsets are connected to the back office system via a mobile network.
- Many offences require no observation time and a CEO can issue a PCN without notice. Where there is an observation time requirement this can mean the CEO stands close to the vehicle with the handset counting down the required time.
- If you think you have been issued with a PCN incorrectly or believe that you have just cause to appeal the information on the back of the notice should be followed. The CEO cannot do cancel the notice.
- Where yellow lines allow waiting or unloading the vehicle must not be parked to cause an obstruction or danger.
- Where there are no restrictions pavement parking can be an offence for an HGV, but not always for a car unless it is causing an obstruction which would then be dealt with by the police.
- Blue badge users should check their handbook to ensure they or the driver fully understands the rules regarding blue badges.
- CEO cannot change the time or any detail on their handsets once the first digit has been inputted.

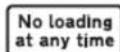
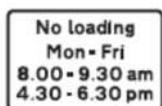
The following are a sample of some of the common restrictions you will see and a reminder of what they mean:



Double yellow lines – along the edge of the road means no waiting at any time. However, you may stop while passengers get into or out of the vehicle. You may also load and unload which would normally be for a non-commercial vehicle no longer than 5 minute intervals (10 for a commercial) between observed loading of burden and in most cases 20 minutes max. Blue badge holders can park for up to 3 hours. (No return for 1 hour) There is no requirement for a sign for a double yellow line restriction.



Single Yellow Lines – During times of operation as shown by time plate those act as double yellow lines. Outside of those times there is no restriction



Loading Restrictions – No observation time required - Are shown by yellow lines (pips or ticks) on the kerb or on the edge of the carriageway. Blue badge holders cannot park.

Single ticks on the kerb mean no loading at times stated on the time plate. Outside of the hours you are able to load and unload in these areas.

Double yellow ticks on the kerb mean no loading or unloading at any time, there is no requirement for a sign

Vehicles can stop while passengers get into or out of the vehicle, but not wait. Blue badges cannot park in a loading restriction.

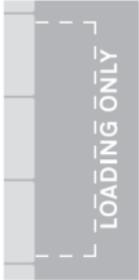


Limited Waiting Bays – are shown by bay markings and signs that indicate the maximum amount of time that you may park in the bay. (Blue badge holders have no time limit)

The 'No Return' information is displayed on the sign. This means that you are not permitted to return to the limited waiting bay within the time specified. CEOs will log all vehicles parked in limited waiting bays including pay and display areas to ensure that they do not overstay or return to the bay within the specified timescale. This does not mean they will be issued a fine, the handset remembers the vehicle and tyre valve positions.



Bus Lanes –No observation time required - You must not drive or stop in a bus lane during its period of operation. Some vehicles are exempt (such as cycles, Taxi) these will be indicated on the signage.

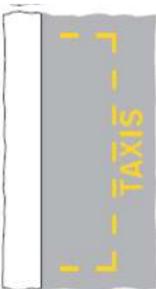


Loading Bays – are white 'bays' marked with the words 'Loading only' or 'Loading Bay.' There may also be a sign but this is not required if wording is outside of a bay. You may load and unload which would normally be for a non-commercial vehicle no longer than 5 minute intervals (10 for a commercial) between observed loading of burden and in most cases 20 minutes max. Can be restricted to certain types of vehicles such as goods vehicle however we allow any vehicle to use if using the bay for its correct purpose. If no times are indicated the bay is in operation at all times, 24/7.

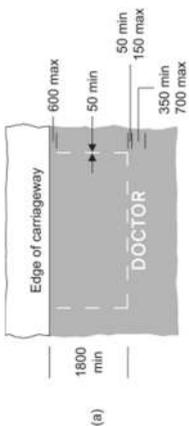


Bus Stop Clearways –No observation time required - You must not park in a bus stop clearway during its period of operation. The period of operation will be shown on the adjoining signage, if there is no signage then the bus stop is in operation 24/7.

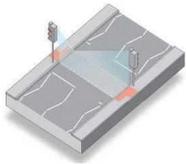
Buses must only use stops to allow passengers to board and alight vehicles but may park for longer to maintain a timetable or to change crews.



Taxi Ranks –No observation time required - You must not park in a Taxi Rank during its period of operation. The period of operation will be shown on the adjoining signage, if no time shown 24/7. Only valid for Hackney carriages not private hire and the driver must be with the vehicle and available for hire.



Parking Bays for Specific Use –No observation time required - you must not park in parking spaces reserved for specific users such as Doctors, Ambulances, Blue badge holders 24/7 (marked as disabled bays), unless you are entitled to do so. There may be signs but not all are required if wording is on the outside of the bay.



Pedestrian Crossing Zig-Zags—No observation time required - You must not park on a pedestrian crossing or in the area covered by the zig-zag markings. These markings are installed specifically to maintain pedestrian safety. Police can also still fine and award penalty points.



Yellow zig-zag markings – No observation time required - Outside schools, hospitals or fire, police or ambulance stations indicate the length of road where you should not stop, not even to pick up or set down children or other passengers. Where there is an upright sign, there is a mandatory prohibition of stopping during the times shown. These markings are provided outside schools to ensure that children can see and be seen clearly when crossing the road. Police can also still fine and award penalty points.



Clearways – No observation time required - Means no stopping, not even to pick up or set down passengers. The sign is used to indicate a 24-hour clearway (usually on a rural road). On a 24-hour clearway, the prohibition of stopping applies only to the main carriageway. You may stop in a lay-by unless there are signs to say otherwise. A 24-hour clearway does not have any special road markings, but there should be smaller repeater signs at approximately one mile intervals.



Restricted Zones - No observation time required - Those act as double yellow lines with double kerb markings on large areas and mean there is no requirement to line the area. Example is Princess Royal Square and enforce 24/7

Parking Myths

- Civil Enforcement officers do NOT get bonuses for issuing tickets. They are paid a salary.
- Double yellow lines with double kerb ticks means no loading or waiting at any time. You may, however, stop to alight or board passengers, (this includes a coach) if safe to do so.
- Blue badges do not allow the holder to park in a loading bay or where there is a loading ban or close to a junction
- When parked in a loading bay you need to be actively loading. If you have to put items away after you have unloaded then you need to move your vehicle to a legal place
- You can get a PCN on a Bank Holiday, late evening or at night and Sunday.
- On-street pay and display tickets can be used in any on-street pay and display location but not car parks
- Blue badge holders can park for up to 3 hours on a single or double yellow line providing there are no kerb ticks in operation. A time clock MUST be displayed showing the correct time of arrival.
- You cannot park illegally to answer a phone call.
- You cannot park illegally to go to the toilet, to pop to the bank or get your lunch.
- CEO's record all vehicle registrations when checking time limited areas, this does not mean a fine will be issued only if the vehicle over stays or returns within the no return time.
- On street pay and display restrictions apply 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and this is only for those pay and display bays. Other restrictions such as loading bays or yellow lines in the same area will still apply outside of those times even if next to a pay and display bay.
- No new restrictions were put in place when North Somerset Council took over civil parking enforcement on 3 April 2017. The only change is who enforces the restrictions