

Allotment Health and Safety

for tenants

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YOUR OWN PLOT

One of the simplest ways to improve safety is to keep your plot tidy. Take a look around your plot and ask yourself:



- Are there tools lying on the ground?
- Are any materials stacked safely?
- Are paths clear and level?
- Is broken glass or rubbish accumulating?
- Are all the structures in good repair?

Many allotment accidents are caused by trips, slips and falls. A neglected path, or tools left in the wrong place can easily cause an accident or injury. It's also worth bearing in mind your own limitations. Do not do too much work in one go, take regular rests, and never carry out dangerous jobs when you are tired. Stop and think about how potentially dangerous a job may be before you start and ensure that you have the correct tools or help in place to complete it safely. When working on your plot:

- Wear sturdy footwear with good grip
- Use suitable gloves when handling manure, compost or chemicals
- Clean cuts and grazes thoroughly when they occur and keep covered with waterproof dressings
- Wash your hands thoroughly before eating or drinking
- Ensure that your tetanus vaccination is up to date

You are reminded that you may not enter another tenant's plot without the express permission of that tenant.

COMMUNAL AREAS

The same standards of cleanliness and tidiness on your own plot also extend to communal areas and you should not obstruct or encroach upon any path or roadway within the allotment site. Please keep communal toilets clean do not flush inappropriate material down the toilet.

WATER ON THE ALLOTMENTS



Water butts, tanks and ponds can present drowning risks, particularly for young children and animals. Containers should be covered where practical, checked regularly for damage, and securely anchored.

Stagnant water can harbour harmful bacteria. Ensure that water storage containers are regularly cleaned.

Ponds should be clearly visible and not overgrown. Shallow sloping margins are generally safer than steep-sided ponds, allowing easier access for animals

Drainage ditches are present on many sites. Extra care should be taken to make yourself aware of their location and children should never be left unsupervised whilst on the allotment site.

Whilst our water is from mains supply, water standing in pipes can potentially be a Legionella risk. Please see our leaflet on Legionella and how to avoid it.

CHILDREN ON SITE

Whilst teaching children about gardening and allowing them to grow and pick vegetables is an essential part of growing up, it must be remembered that allotments are working environments with machinery, tools and chemicals. Children must always be supervised by an adult and not be allowed to explore, cycle around, or play on the site unsupervised.

Potential hazards include:



- Water butts and ponds
- Chemicals and fertilisers
- Sharp tools
- Broken glass
- Poisonous plants
- Machinery including mowers, rotovators and strimmers
- Contractors on site with large or noisy machinery
- Drainage ditches
- Cars and other vehicles
- BBQs

Encourage children to wash or sanitise their hands after touching soil, compost or manure, and before eating snacks.

VEHICLES

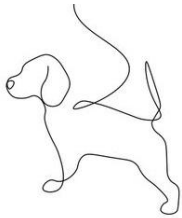
The roadways around allotment sites can be uneven so care must be taken when driving around the site. Tenants may be wearing headphones, be hard of hearing, or simply absorbed in their work so extra vigilance must be taken by drivers.



The speed limit on site is a strict 5mph.

DOGS

Whilst they are welcomed, dogs must be kept on a lead, under control and not allowed to cause a nuisance to others whilst on site. Remember to pick up after your dog and dispose of it sensibly.



BBQs

Open fires in any form are not allowed on the allotments. BBQs are permitted using charcoal or gas but be careful to ensure they are fully extinguished and cooled before leaving, and that there are no stray embers.

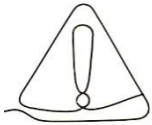
VERMIN ON THE ALLOTMENT

Rats and mice will always be an unfortunate reality on allotment sites. Whilst they do have an important role in the food chain, rodents can damage crops. Rats can spread diseases such as leptospirosis (Weil's Disease), which can be transmitted through contaminated water. To reduce problems:



- Do not leaving food waste on plots
- Maintain compost bins properly
- Clear rubbish regularly

If you have chickens or rabbits on site, keep their cages clean and ensure food is stored securely in a rodent-proof container.



MANAGING CHEMICALS SAFELY

Many allotment holders use fertilisers or pest control products, but these should always be handled carefully and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Chemicals can affect wildlife, pets, neighbouring plots and watercourse if used incorrectly. Keep chemicals safe by:

- Keeping products in their original containers
- Following the manufacturer's instructions
- Storing chemicals securely and out of reach of children
- Never decanting chemicals into drink or food containers
- Ensuring correct disposal of unwanted products

KEEPING SAFE

Even if you have taken precautions on your plot, accidents can still happen so it's always good to be extra vigilant and take some additional precautions:

- Let a friend, relative or neighbour know roughly how long you are going to be working on your allotment
- Keep your mobile phone with you at all times
- Make a note on your mobile of the emergency allotment contact - 07743 195 650
- Know some basic first aid and keep and up to date first aid kit on your plot
- Know the postcode of your allotment site. This can be found on the site noticeboard at the front of each site
- Keep an eye out for fellow tenants

This information is for health and safety purposes only and is not a replacement for the rules.

Please refer to rules for a comprehensive list of dos and don'ts.