

Everything you've always wanted to know about renting an allotment from Bristol City Council but were afraid to ask.

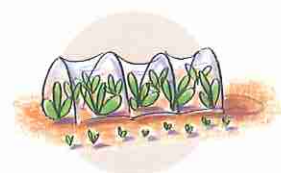


As strange as it may seem, allotments have their own legislation which dictates how allotments should be used. The do's and don'ts on this document are a plain English interpretation of the legislation. Persistently breaking any of the rules mentioned will result in you being sent a Notice to Quit your allotment plot.



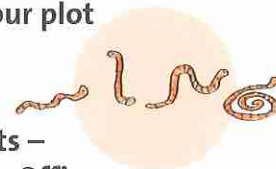
Do's

- * You can plant herbs and flowers as well as fruit and vegetables.
- * If your site has gates you **MUST** always ensure you lock them behind you.
- * You can bring your dog on site as long as it's kept on a lead at all times.
- * You can have a small lawned area as long as it's regularly mown.
- * You can build a pond, as long as it's built in a way that's not dangerous to people and animals. For advice contact the Allotments Office.
- * You **MUST** erect a clearly visible number board on your plot.
- * If you have fruit bushes/trees, etc, you **MUST** maintain the area around them.
- * You must cultivate and keep free from weeds at least 75% of your plot.
- * If there is a shed on your plot you must maintain it in a serviceable and safe condition.
- * You **MUST** pay your allotment rent within 40 days of receiving an invoice.
- * If you think you qualify for a low-income rent discount you must apply between 1 June and 20 September **EVERY** year.
- * If you vacate you must pay any rent owed.
- * Always inform the Allotments Office if you change your address.
- * Permit entry to sheds/structures for allotment staff at any time requested.
- * If you vacate your plot you **MUST** remove all belongings within two weeks.
- * If your plot is overgrown when you first rent it you are entitled to two years' half-rent.
- * Paths either side of your plot should be maintained and kept to a minimum width of 18 inches (450 mm).
- * Always inform your site rep (if you have one) if you have any problems.
- * You are responsible for maintaining the inside of any hedge adjacent to your plot.



Don'ts

- * You are not allowed to sublet your plot.
- * You are not allowed to use your plot for any trade or business.
- * You are not allowed to bring onto or use carpets on allotment plots.
- * You must get permission from the Allotments Office if you wish to erect sheds, greenhouses, etc, or if you wish to plant dwarf rootstock fruit trees, or if you keep chickens, bees or rabbits on your plot.
- * You are not allowed to bring rubbish onto the site (if you do you will be charged for its removal).
- * You are not allowed to block communal pathways/haulingways.
- * You are not allowed to wash crops or tools in water troughs.
- * You are not allowed to use a hosepipe or a sprinkler to water crops.
- * You are not allowed to have smoky bonfires that cause a nuisance, or leave fires unattended.
- * You are not allowed to stay overnight on your allotment plot.
- * You are not allowed to cause a nuisance to other plot holders or neighbouring householders – nuisance could include bad language, getting drunk, playing loud music, racist language, etc.
- * You or your children are not allowed to go onto other people's plots unless they have given you permission to do so.
- * You are not allowed to dig up paths between plots.
- * You are not allowed to move city council sheds unless given permission by the Allotments Office.
- * You are not allowed to use any form of harassment or violence on-site, be it physical or verbal.
- * You are not allowed to let your dog stray onto or foul other plots or paths/haulingways.
- * You are not allowed to transfer your tenancy if your site has a waiting-list.
- * You are not allowed to give your key to other people or allow them to visit your plot unsupervised.
- * You are not allowed to bring firearms onto allotment sites.
- * You are not allowed to keep cockerels, pigs, sheep or horses on allotment plots – hens, bees and rabbits may be kept if permission is granted by the Allotments Office.



Cultivation requirements

- ☀ From the start date of your tenancy agreement you have a three-month period in which enforcement for non-cultivation is not applicable. After this time you will receive a fourteen-day notice to remedy if at least 75% of your plot is not at a good level of cultivation.
- ☀ Good cultivation involves a regular level of work, with crops planted or ground prepared ready for planting and a virtually weed-free plot.
- ☀ If you have fruit bushes/trees then the area around them must be maintained to a high standard and not be allowed to become overgrown and covered in weeds.
- ☀ You should not allow your plot to become covered in weeds that seed or spread.
- ☀ If you fail to pay your rent within 40 days, or fail to improve the condition of your plot following a Notice to Remedy, or receive three Notice to Remedy letters within three years, you will be issued with a one-month Notice to Quit. If you do manage to remedy the plot's condition by the end of the one month your Notice to Quit will be cancelled (except after receipt of three Notices to Remedy within three years).

You can also find out more about allotments by visiting www.bristol-city.gov.uk/allotments
For more information, please contact the Allotments Office on 0117 922 3737.