



Garden Fencing

Information for council tenants

Many of our residents are uncertain about who is responsible for erecting and maintaining garden fences. This leaflet explains which fences are your responsibility and when the council will erect a new fence and replace, repair or maintain an existing one.

This leaflet tells you:

- Which fences are our responsibility
- Which fences are your responsibility
- When the Council will install a new fence or wall
- Your extra responsibilities if you allow a dog into your garden

Fences that are the council's responsibility

The Council will maintain, repair and replace fences or walls in these locations only:

- When an existing fence or wall provided by us forms a boundary between a council home and a public footpath
- An existing fence or wall provided by us, which prevents falls from height
- All fences and walls provided by us when they form part of communal gardens, grounds or drying areas in a block of flats or sheltered scheme.

Fences that are your responsibility

Any fences or walls that act as a boundary between a council home and a neighbouring garden are the responsibility either of the tenant or their neighbour. You can find out whether the fence forms part of the boundary of your home by emailing housing@dacorum.gov.uk or by calling **01442 228000** and asking for 'Housing'.

Please note that it may take up to ten working days to give you this information.

When will the council build a new fence or wall?

- When a council home with its own private garden is re-let and there is no fence to mark the boundary, the council will usually install a simple post and plain wire fence along the boundary line.
- When the council builds brand new homes we will install fences or walls on all boundaries between gardens and public footpaths and post-and-wire between gardens to mark boundaries. We may also install fences or walls within the communal areas of the development.



When we erect a new fence along the boundary between a garden and a public footpath it will usually be approximately 1.8 metres (six feet) high and constructed of feather-edged wooden boards.



Simple post-and-wire fence to mark a boundary between properties. We will only mark a boundary when a property is re-let.

Animal owners

If you allow a dog into your garden then it is your responsibility to ensure that it does not escape. If a dog is loose in your garden then you must ensure that your whole garden is securely fenced, whether or not the boundary forms part of your home. If a neighbour's boundary is not sufficiently secure to prevent your dog escaping then you should talk to them about it in the first instance. If they do not wish to make their boundary secure then it is your responsibility to erect a fence or other barrier inside your own boundary to keep your dog safely within your own garden.

For more information about garden fencing please contact the Tenancy team by email: housing@dacorum.gov.uk or telephone **01442 228000** and ask for **Housing**.

If you are reporting a repair to a fence alongside a public footpath or within a communal area please contact **Osborne Property Services** on **0800 0186050** and select **option 2**.