

Grounds Maintenance - Frequently Asked Questions



Here are some of the questions that we are regularly asked.

Q. When and how often is the grass cut?

A. Communal grass is cut on a two-weekly schedule between the beginning of April and the end of September of each year. The schedule can be affected by bank holidays and the weather so the days we visit may change some weeks. If the conditions allow, then monthly cuts will continue between October and March. Information about where and when grass will be cut will be available soon on our website.

Q. Will cut up litter be removed when grass is cut?

A. Yes. We try to remove all litter before we start but if we do cut some up, it will be removed so the area is left clean and tidy.

Q. Will grass clippings be removed after the grass is cut?

A. We leave the grass clippings on the grass. It is costly to collect and dispose of cut grass, but they become mulch and can help improve the health of the soil/lawn and reduce weed growth. Our cutting machines cut the grass into small pieces, which helps with the mulching process.

Q. Will grass clippings on hard surfaces like paths be removed?

A. Yes. Once we have finished all the grass cutting on that section/area we will then sweep or blow them (using a leaf blower) back onto the grass area.

Q. Why do you not cut an area of grass on our estate?

A. Teign Housing don't own all the grassed areas, shrub beds and hedges on every estate. Some are owned by Devon Country Council, Teignbridge District Council or maintained by the Town/Parish Council. The frequency of cuts are not the same.

Q. Does Teign Housing weed spray within communal areas?

A. Teign Housing has recently invested in some new spraying equipment and specialist weed killer. Communal areas are inspected regularly, and any treatment needed is raised and scheduled in to be completed. Public pavements are the responsibility of Devon County Council, but they generally do not treat unsightly weeds. You can find out more on their website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/maintaining-roads/trees-and-vegetation-2/grass-cutting/>

Q. I am concerned about a tree, what can I do about it?

A. Teign Housing is responsible for maintaining trees on our communal land, to ensure that they do not pose a health and safety risk to members of the public. There are three ways in which we may treat a tree; pollarding, crown lifting or felling.

We will only treat trees within our residents' gardens that are deemed a health and safety risk, or that are causing damage to property.

If you are concerned about a tree on our land, or within your garden please contact us.

Q. Does Teign Housing maintain hedges?

A. Hedges on communal land are hard cut once between October and March. The work will consist of trimming back that season's growth on the sides and top of the hedge, to ensure they are left looking neat and tidy and do not encroach over public footpaths. All trimmings should be removed from site upon completion. We do not cut hedges and trees between March and end of June/early July as this is the main breeding season for nesting birds.

Q. Do leaves and debris get collected from communal areas during the autumn and winter months?

A. A programme for extra leaf collections throughout our communal areas has been arranged and the leaves will be collected and removed using various machinery. Site inspections are carried out and areas with trees will have more regular collections.

Q. Does Teign Housing treat moss on pathways and drying areas?

A. Teign Housing has recently invested in some new equipment that specialises in using a large wire brush to remove the moss off communal areas. Communal areas are inspected regularly, and any treatment needed is raised and scheduled in to be completed

Q. Can I pay Teign Housing to cut the grass in my own garden?

A. Unfortunately, this is not a service we offer.

Q. Am I able to plant a tree or a rose in the communal area in memory of a loved one?

A. Please contact us to discuss your request before making any purchases. It is something we might give permission for, but we have to consider the ongoing care and maintenance.

Q. Will any of the green waste you collect be recycled?

A. Yes, we have created some recycling bays where small green waste is stored alongside shredded paper and cardboard. This is then turned and covered to produce a compost, which is then put back into our shrub beds and planted borders – our aim is to recycle as much as possible!