

# Front Gardens

## planning and construction guidance from the Hadley Wood Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Thinking of redesigning your front garden? Need more hardstanding for parking? Do high front walls and fences improve security? Below are our top tips for gardens that help biodiversity, drainage and local character, while adding appeal and value to your property.

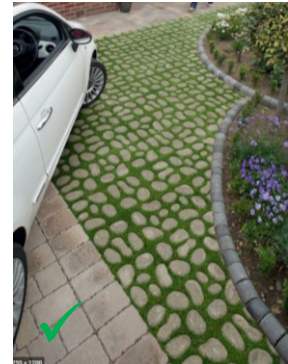
Remember that front boundaries over 1 metre high, and hardstanding of more than 5 square metres, usually requires planning permission (and stricter rules apply in the Conservation Area).

1. **Maximise retained green space, mature trees and shrubs** as it looks great and supports biodiversity. Even smaller frontages can accommodate at least 20% being retained as garden.



RHS advice on front gardens is at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/Gardening-matters-Front-Gardens-urban-greening.pdf>

2. **Use permeable or porous materials** to mitigate flood risk (Hadley Wood has sloping grounds and is built on clay) and avoid pollutants entering our waters.



Guidance on the permeable surfacing of front gardens can be found at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7728/pavingfrontgardens.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7728/pavingfrontgardens.pdf)

3. **Keep any front walls and railings low** as that retains local character, and front doors and windows being visible from the road can help security.



Met Police home security guidance can be found at <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/>

[Neighbourhood Planning Forum \(hadleywood.org.uk\)](http://hadleywood.org.uk)