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## Introduction

Our Garden Aid Scheme helps East Lothian Council tenants who, because of disability or age (60 years old or over) are no longer able to maintain their garden.

It provides assistance to keep their garden under control to ensure there is no breach in their tenancy agreement.

The scheme starts in early April each year and runs through the growing season up to the end of October/November that year.

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### What is covered by the scheme?

- We provide a maximum of 10 grass cuts during the growing season, but this can sometimes be reduced depending on the weather conditions. Work is carried out every three weeks. If you have a hedge this will be trimmed twice during the year: once in the middle of the season then a further cut at the end.
- Weed kill will be applied as a one-off in any overgrown areas.

### What is not covered by the scheme?

- The borders - you will have to take care of your garden borders.
- Digging – any work that involves digging (i.e. planting etc is not covered by the Garden Aid scheme and will not be carried out.
- Pruning – in general no bushes and shrubs will be pruned back. Tenants will need to arrange for this to be carried out and a separate charge will be made for this work.
- The removal of dog/cat faeces or other animal waste.

The work is carried out by our trained Amenity Services staff who will advise local area office on a monthly basis of dates when work will be done in their area.

## Some things to think about

The scheme is only open to East Lothian Council tenants. It is open to elderly tenants (60 years old and over). Applications from tenants under 60 years old with a disability must be supported with a letter to confirm they are unable to maintain their garden.

If you are accepted for Garden Aid but a younger family member later moves back into the family home, you may no longer be entitled to receive the scheme.

If you receive Garden Aid and then apply to buy your council house, you will no longer be entitled to receive this service and your name will be removed from the scheme.

If at a later date you decide to cancel your application to purchase or you withdraw from the sale before it is completed, your name will be added back onto the scheme.

Tenants who refuse to remove dog faeces from their garden could be suspended or removed from the scheme. Cleaning up after your pet is a condition of your tenancy agreement. Free poo bags are available from all council offices.

## Do you qualify?

If you think you qualify for the Garden Aid scheme and would like to be considered or simply want to find out more, contact your local Community Housing officer or your nearest local area office:

### **East Area - Dunbar Office**

High Street, Dunbar  
[housingdunbar@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:housingdunbar@eastlothian.gov.uk)

### **East Area - Haddington Office**

6/8 Lodge Street, Haddington  
[housinghaddington@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:housinghaddington@eastlothian.gov.uk)

### **Musselburgh Area**

Brunton Hall, Musselburgh  
[housingmusselburgh@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:housingmusselburgh@eastlothian.gov.uk)

### **East Area - North Berwick Office**

2 Quality Street, North Berwick  
[housingnorthberwick@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:housingnorthberwick@eastlothian.gov.uk)

### **Prestonpans Area**

Aldhammer House, Prestonpans  
[housingprestonpans@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:housingprestonpans@eastlothian.gov.uk)

### **Tranent Area**

Sanderson's Wynd, Tranent  
[housingtranent@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:housingtranent@eastlothian.gov.uk)

You can telephone your local area office on **01620 827 827**.



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