

Berm Parking

Berms (also known as verges) are parts of the road that are grassed or landscaped. On our urban streets and rural roads they serve a wide range of functions, and in some locations, this can include parking.

Council's general approach to berm parking

In our urban areas, the roadside accommodates a wide range of activities and infrastructure, including utilities, landscaping and people walking or cycling. To minimise damage and conflicts, parking is only permitted in the areas specifically designed for that purpose.

In our rural areas, roads cater to a smaller number and variety of users, so parking on the berm is generally unrestricted where safe to do so, with the exception of specially designated areas (e.g. where landscaping or safety issues are present).

Why not park on urban area berms?

Parking on berms, landscaping, kerbs, and footpaths can damage infrastructure that is not designed to handle the weight of vehicles. Berms are also the areas where pedestrians can walk and essential services such as telecommunications cables, sewer and water pipes are located, which may be damaged by parked vehicles.

Parking on the berm creates traffic safety issues by blocking the footpath or visibility of other users like walkers, cyclists, mobility scooter drivers, and those exiting from adjacent driveways.



Where can I park on urban streets?

You can park on the street in parking lanes and formed parking bays inset into the berm, which have been designed and designated for parking.

When parking on the street, do not park over driveways, pedestrian crossings, fire hydrants or where broken yellow lines designate “no stopping” zones. Do not park on footpaths or kerbs.

Where should I not park on rural roads?

In general, only park on berms where it is safe to do so and there is clear visibility to your vehicle. Do not park close to intersections, or on curves where you cannot easily be seen. Do not park on landscaping, where it may cause damage or on any built infrastructure like footpaths or kerbs.

Council's focus is on protecting public safety and infrastructure while supporting reasonable community use. Enforcement is typically focused on situations where parking creates a safety issue, causes damage, or results in complaints from the community.

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.