

Contractor Checklist

This checklist should be completed prior to designing and constructing a driveway. The checklist should be used by suitably qualified contractors or by householders intending to construct a DIY driveway.

1. Is the property at risk of flooding?

Check your Flood Risk: [Check the long term flood risk for an area in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Please select the property's flood risk from the table below:

		Risk of Flooding		
		Low / Unlikely	Medium	High / Likely
Flood Source	Surface water			
	Rivers and the sea			
	Groundwater			
	Reservoir			

Important Note: If the property is at risk of flooding, you should contact a suitably qualified flood risk specialist for advice prior to designing and constructing the driveway, to ensure you do not increase flood risk to the property.

2. Are you installing a permeable driveway?

- Yes **Next Step:** Carry out an infiltration test in the proposed driveway construction area to confirm the ground conditions on site.
- No **Next Step:** If the proposed driveway area exceeds 5m², check that the householder has secured the required planning permission from their local planning authority.

3. Does the proposed driveway have a connection to a drainage outfall for surface water?

- Infiltration of surface water to ground
- Piped connection to a surface water sewer
- Piped connection to a watercourse
- Piped connection to a waterbody i.e. pond

Note: Infiltration to ground should always be the first option for surface water drainage if ground conditions allow. Surface water runoff from the driveway must not enter the public foul sewer network or the public highway sewer.

Permission to Connect Note: If you are proposing to connect to a public surface water sewer, you must ensure that you have permission from United Utilities. If you are proposing a new connection to a main river, you will need a permit from the Environment Agency, and if you are proposing a connection to an ordinary watercourse you will need consent from your Lead Local Flood Authority, which is the County Council or Unitary Council for your area.

4. Have you got a mechanism to store excess surface water within the front garden during rainfall?

- Rain Garden
- Swale
- Underground Cellular Storage

5. Have you incorporated water tolerant and drought resistant planting within the design?

- Yes
- No

Tip: For ideas on climate resilient planting for incorporation in front gardens please visit:

[Building a resilient garden for a changing climate / RHS Gardening](#)

[Wet and dry soils: plants for / RHS Gardening](#)

[Clay soils: plants for / RHS Gardening](#)

[Sandy soils: plants for / RHS Gardening](#)

6. Is the front garden/driveway on a slope?

- Yes
- No

If you have answered yes, please proceed to Q6a below.

6a. Have you incorporated a cut off/channel drain to capture surface water run off?

- Yes
- No **Next Step:** This will be required to mitigate surface water flood risk.