

How to Improve Privacy in Your Garden

A private garden is usually a more comfortable and enjoyable space to spend time in. Whether you are dealing with overlooking windows, close boundaries, or exposed seating areas, there are plenty of ways to improve privacy.

1. Identify where the overlooking comes from

Start by assessing the main problem areas:

- neighbouring windows
- gardens at a higher level
- gaps in fencing
- exposed patio or hot tub areas
- long sight lines from adjoining properties

Targeting the issue properly usually leads to a better solution than just adding height everywhere.

2. Use fencing and screening carefully

Solid fencing can help, but it is not always the best answer on its own. Consider:

- standard fencing
- slatted screening
- decorative panels
- trellis sections
- pergolas with side screens

Layered screening often looks better than one giant wall along the boundary.

3. Planting can soften and shield

Trees, shrubs, climbers, and hedging can all help improve privacy while keeping the garden greener and more natural.

Good options often include:

- evergreen screening plants
- climbers on trellis
- layered shrub borders
- ornamental grasses for softer screening

Planting can be especially useful where you want privacy without making the garden feel enclosed.

4. Reposition seating areas

Sometimes privacy can be improved simply by moving where you sit. A slight change in location, orientation, or screening around the patio can make a big difference.

5. Use structures to create shelter

Features such as pergolas, garden rooms, screens, and covered seating areas can:

- block direct lines of sight
- make spaces feel more enclosed
- create a more intentional garden design

6. Balance privacy with light

Too much solid screening can make a garden feel dark or boxed in. The best solutions usually combine privacy with openness by using partial screening, planting, and zoning.



7. Check practical and legal considerations

Boundary changes, height restrictions, and neighbouring properties may need to be considered before carrying out major work.

Final thought

Good privacy design is not just about blocking views. It is about creating a garden that feels comfortable, usable, and calm. The best results usually come from combining screening, planting, and layout rather than relying on a single fix.

