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- P = Pot-holes in badly maintained pavements
- Q = Queues
- R = Roadworks - badly fenced
- S = Scaffolding
- T = Trash - discarded bin bags and loose rubbish
- U = Umbrellas
- V = Vehicles parked on pavements
- W = Wheelie bins
- X = X-ings - lack of aids for vision-impaired people
- Y = Youngsters on roller-blades and skateboards
- Z = Zig-zagging around unnecessary street obstacles

- A = A-boards
- B = Bollards
- C = Cyclists on pavements and cycles discarded outside shops
- D = Debris ... from building work, e.g. piles of sand
- E = Electric and other cables
- F = Food (discarded food can distract guide dogs)
- G = Gum (discarded chewing gum can stick to guide dogs' hair)
- H = Hedges overgrown
- I = Irregular walking surfaces
- J = Jagged glass - broken bottles (broken glass can cut guide dogs' paws)
- K = Kerb stones
- L = Lamp-posts
- M = Mess from other dogs
- N = Narrow walkways as a result of obstructions
- O = OBSTACLES

A-Z Guide (to Obstacles)

Every day, unnecessary street obstacles mean that blind and partially sighted people suffer inconvenience and risk serious injury.

With a little consideration, we could all help to make the streets safer for guide dog owners and other vision-impaired people.

This is the **A-Z Guide to Obstacles**, mapping parts of the street 'scene' which when badly designed, positioned or maintained become potential hazards.

For example, pavements blocked by parked vehicles may mean the only way to proceed involves a guide dog owner having to walk into the road, close to moving traffic they cannot see.

The sharp branches of overgrown hedges can cause serious injury to blind and partially sighted people. Guide dogs are very observant, but when the offending foliage is at the head-height of humans, a guide dog cannot always detect the obstruction far above.

Badly positioned street 'furniture' such as advertising boards (A-boards), bollards, lamp-posts, wheelie bins, and cycles discarded outside shops massively increase the work of the guide dog as it zig-zags around the obstructions.

The **A-Z Guide to Obstacles** lists some of the principal street hazards identified by guide dog owners. Many can be found in the pop-up Slalom Street. The challenge is to find ways to remove or prevent these obstructions occurring in your pedestrian areas. Website www.guidedogs.org.uk/saferstreets will give you clues on how to make local streets safer for blind and partially sighted people - and for all pedestrians.



