

Adaptations to your council home

What grants are available?

Grants are available to help council tenants continue to live in their home when disabilities cause difficulties in day-to-day activities.

What types of adaptation can be undertaken?

These grants may be provided for several purposes, for example:

- Installing a stair lift or floor lift
- Help in bathing e.g. adapting a bathroom with a level access shower or a shower over the bath
- Installing ramps to front or rear doors
- Widening doors
- Adapting kitchens for easier use
- Improving or providing a better heating system.

Grants can be given up to £30,000 and in exceptional circumstances other funding can be made available.

The council has the right to refuse a grant where the property is unable to be satisfactorily adapted. In these circumstances support will be given to tenants to move to more suitable accommodation. A grant can be given towards the cost of moving.

Am I eligible for a grant?

The Government sets the rules on grants. If you receive the following benefits you will be given a grant:

- Housing or Council Tax Benefit
- Tax Credits with an income below £15,050 per year

Other grants will be 'means tested' based on your income and savings. For information, the following may apply:

- The applicant's weekly income, taking into account any savings above a certain limit. The 'means test' will, however, ignore certain state benefits, including those that specifically recognise a

person's disability. This income is then set against an assessment of basic needs, which are recognised by a range of premiums and allowances.

- If the person's resources are less than this assessment, then they will not normally need to contribute to the cost of the works.
- If the person's resources are more than the assessment, then a proportion of their income will be used to calculate the size of their contribution.

Any grant to support children is exempt from 'means testing'.

How can I apply?

Enquiries should be made to Social Care Helpdesk for adults **0300 4560111**.

Enquiries for supporting children to live at home contact **01722 327551**.

Help and advice will be given by a Customer Services Advisor and, if needed, a referral will be made to an Occupational Therapist (OT) who will visit you and discuss the various options for supporting you to live at home.

In many cases advice and guidance will enable you overcome some of the barriers to living at home, or equipment may be supplied to support you. If a solution is still not found the Occupational Therapist will complete an assessment of your needs and a grant application will be progressed.

A Grants Officer will help you complete the necessary forms for approval.

Designs will be drawn up, with your support, to address your needs.

When all parties have agreed to the designs and subject to funding being available, work will commence at a date that is acceptable to you.

Fast track aids and adaptations

If you are about to move into a council property and the property requires adaptation to meet your medical needs and you require:

- Provision of ramps
- Grab rails
- Walk-in shower
- Stair lift

then Wiltshire Council Housing Management has a fast-track process that may help this work to be done for you before you move in. Please contact the numbers below for further assistance or information.

Further information and useful contacts

If you would like any further information about adaptations to your home, or would like to find out if you are eligible for an assessment by an Occupational Therapist, please contact Wiltshire Council Social Services Helpdesk on **0300 4560111**.

If you would like any further information about adaptations for council properties, please contact Wiltshire Council Housing Management, using the contact details below:

Postal Address: Housing Management, Department of Neighbourhood and Planning, P.O. Box 2281, Wiltshire Council, Salisbury SP2 2HX.

Telephone: 01722 434294 or 0300 456 0100 (low cost call)

In Person: Housing Management, Department of Neighbourhood and Planning, 25-27 Milford Street, Salisbury, SP1 2AP.



Information about Wiltshire Council's services can be made available on request in other languages and formats such as large print and audio. Please contact the council on 0300 456 0100, by textphone on 01225 712500 or by email on customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk