

# Aids and adaptations

Making life easier in your home





**This leaflet contains information about specialist equipment and adaptations available to you and how you can apply for them, making it easier for you to live safely and independently in your own home.**

**If you or a family member has a disability or mobility issue, our aids and adaptations service can adapt your home to make everyday tasks easier.**

We can provide a range of equipment from handrails and lever taps to specialist items designed for people with specific disabilities.

We also give advice and support to residents who need to have major adaptations, such as installing a stair lift or putting in a level-access shower. These types of adaptations are the responsibility of your local authority and require an assessment by an Occupational Therapist.



## Minor adaptations

We can install most minor adaptations at your request and without an Occupational Therapist's recommendation.

Minor adaptations are those costing less than £750 and can include:

- **grab rails or handrails**
- **specialist window openers**
- **lever taps to washbasins, sinks and baths**
- **entry phones.**

We will consider all requests for minor adaptations on a case-by-case basis and we prioritise according to individual needs.

Routine minor adaptations are normally completed within 28 days from the date we receive the request. Sometimes it may take us slightly longer depending on the nature of the work and availability of the aid or adaptation. We usually organise and pay for minor adaptations.



## Major adaptations

Major adaptations are those costing £750 or more. They are usually funded through a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), which is provided by your local authority. The local authority administers DFG funding and this can take up to 12 months, although timescales can vary.

Major adaptations can include the fitting of:

- **a level-access shower to replace a bath**
- **a permanent ramp to a doorway**
- **a stair lift or through-floor lift**
- **internal alterations to walls and doorways.**

The starting point is to call your local authority. An assessment by an Occupational Therapist needs to be arranged. They will then visit you at home to assess your needs.

Once your local authority has agreed to the funding, we will work with them to ensure that your major adaptation is completed as soon as possible.

All requests for major adaptations need to be accompanied by an Occupational Therapist's recommendation.

## What if I can't get a grant or help with the work?

If you are not entitled to financial help for a major adaptation, you may decide to pay for it yourself. You could consider asking a charity or trust, such as The British Legion, Age UK or Scope, to help you with the cost.

## What if my home can't be adapted?

Sometimes it is not practical for us to carry out adaptations to your home because of its size, construction, location or the amount of adaptations required. In these situations, we may help you move to a property that is more suited to your needs or one that can be more easily adapted.

## What doesn't count as an aid or adaptation?

Items that are not part of the property, such as wheelchairs, walking sticks and hearing aids, are not aids and adaptations and are therefore not provided by

Sanctuary. You may still be able to get help with these items, but generally they are available through your GP, hospital or other social care or health services.

## Who can apply?

All residents living in Sanctuary's rented properties and permanent members of their household who:

- have a long-term condition
- are struggling with everyday activities
- are restricted by their environment

The service is not available to leaseholders or shared owners, but in these cases we are happy to offer you advice.

All requests for any type of adaptation will be assessed and considered on an individual basis.

This leaflet can be translated into other languages, large print and Braille or recorded on to an audio CD. Please contact us for details.

If you need to speak to a Sanctuary member of staff in your own language, please contact your local office and they will arrange an interpreter for you.

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