



Fact Sheet SAH03 December 2012

Adapting your home

If you are finding it difficult to get around your home, it may be possible to reduce these difficulties by altering or adapting your home.

Adaptations are improvements or repairs that can help disabled, injured and older people to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Examples of adaptations can include:

- rails on paths and stairs
- ramps
- wider doorways
- stair lifts
- lever taps
- walk-in showers
- chair or bed raisers.



Minor adaptations

Minor adaptations are simple adaptations that cost less than £1,000 such as grab rails, hand rails or alterations to steps.



Adaptations can be arranged privately and details of local providers can be found on Social Care Connect our online directory of local organisations.

If you would like the council to arrange for minor adaptations to your home, you will have to have an assessment of your needs. If the assessment shows that you qualify for support from us, an occupational therapist will make recommendations about what adaptations would be most appropriate for you.

If you agree to have the adaptation work completed, we will arrange for a technician to visit you at home.

There is no charge for this work. However, if you live in privately rented accommodation or housing associations then the owner of the property will need to give written consent to the work being carried out.

Major adaptations

Major adaptations are more significant, structural alterations to your home such as level access showers, ramps or stair lifts.



Arranging major adaptations privately

Adaptations to your home can be arranged privately, but if you would like advice we can arrange for an occupational therapist to assess your needs and make recommendations about the type of equipment and adaptations you need.

If you need help organising the work, Barnet Care and Repair Agency can help with finding a builder and supervising the works through to completion.

Barnet Care and Repair Agency

A service for vulnerable older people and adults with disabilities living in the private sector. They will assist you to complete adaptations or repairs to your home to enable you to live independently in safety and comfort.

Address:

Environment and Neighbourhood Services,
North London Business Park, Oakleigh
Road South, London N11 1NP

Tel: 020 8359 7462

Fax: 0870 889 6793

Arranging major adaptations through the council

If you would like the council to arrange for major adaptations to your home, you will have to have an assessment of your needs.

We cannot guarantee that your request for major adaptations to your home will be agreed, you will need to meet our eligibility criteria. For major adaptations, the works must be necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of a person who has a critical and substantial need.

If the assessment shows that you qualify for support from us, an occupational therapist will make recommendations about what adaptations would be most appropriate for your needs. It is important that the required adaptations are reasonable and practicable in terms of the actual property. In some instances where an adaptation is not possible, moving home may be a more suitable option.

For more information or to find out if you are eligible for support speak to your allocated occupational therapist or social worker. If you do not have allocated occupational therapist or social worker, contact Social Care Direct.

Funding major adaptations

Adaptations can be paid for in a number of ways depending on who owns the property you live in:

- if you own your property or are a private tenant you may qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant to fund the work
- if you live in council property, we will arrange for Barnet Homes to carry out the work. If substantial adaptations are required, you may be offered the opportunity to move to another house, which is more suited to your needs
- if you live in a housing association property, the housing association will normally pay for the adaptation. If they do not have the funds available, you may qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant and your case will be referred to Environmental Health Service.



Social Care Direct

If you do not have allocated occupational therapist or social worker, contact Social Care Direct.

Tel: 020 8359 5000

If you need this factsheet in a different format, please contact the Communications Officer for Adult and Communities on:

Tel: 020 8359 7150

Email: adultsocialservices@barnet.gov.uk