



Home Improvement Agency

FACTSHEET

Adaptations for People with Disabilities

The Council provides a wide range of assistance to help people of all ages with disabilities to live as independently as possible in their homes.

There are various types of assistance which may be available:

- Specialist equipment
- Minor adaptations costing less than £1000
- Major adaptations costing more than £1000 (including Disabled Facilities Grants)
- Rehousing (in the case of a Council Tenant)

Who Can Apply

You can apply for assistance with adaptations if you are:-

- The disabled person
- The parent or guardian of a disabled child under the age of 19
- The owner of a property where a disabled person is resident on a permanent basis

Every disabled person who enquires about assistance will be assessed in exactly the same way, regardless of age or who owns your property.

The assistance we can offer can depend on tenure (whether living in their own home, renting from a private landlord or housing association), personal circumstances or financial situation. Customers will be advised of this during the assessment process.

Eligibility Criteria

To receive specialist equipment and adaptations (major or minor) to a home, all three of the following criteria must be met:

- Residing permanently in Sandwell and

- Having a permanent and substantial physical disability OR the equipment must be needed as part of a rehabilitation treatment package, and
- Experiencing difficulty using the existing main facilities of your home because of your disability.

The difficulty could include:

- Not being able to get into or out of a bed without help, either on the ground floor or upstairs
- Not being able to leave or enter the home because the access is restricted
- Not being able to use stairs
- Not being able to use your bath or shower without assistance
- Being advised, by a doctor, not to undertake any of the activities listed above without being accompanied
- Having restricted mobility

Assessment

A Prevention Assessor and an Occupational Therapist from the Therapy Team will contact the customer to get more detailed information about their needs in order to decide the most appropriate form of assessment to complete and to prioritise the request.

This could be completed over the telephone, by visiting in the home or an assessment may be completed at our facilities at the Independent Living Centre.

The Council may also contact any professionals who work with the customer, eg their GP. Where the disabled person is a child, we may contact their GP, their school as well as any specialists who work with them.

How to Apply

When a customer finds they need assistance in the home, they should contact the Council's Enquiry Service by telephone or e-mail.

Tel: 0121 569 2266 or Email: Sandwell_Enquiry@sandwell.gov.uk

They will take some details and ask for some information about their needs which will be passed to the Therapy Team

