



Home Improvement Agency

FACTSHEET

LEVEL ACCESS SHOWER – Owner Occupier

Your Occupational Therapist has recommended we replace your bath with a shower.

A Caseworker will visit you to complete an application for a Disabled Facilities Grant which will fund the cost of the adaptation.

If you receive certain qualifying benefits a grant will fund the work. If you do not receive these benefits you will need to complete a means test which is based on the money you (and your partner) receive each week as well as any savings or investments. We will let you know if you need to make a contribution and you will be asked whether you want to proceed.

Most people are happy for the Local Authority to manage the whole process for them. However, you may prefer to appoint a Private Agent to do this instead. Your Caseworker can give you more information. Please be aware that additional charges may apply if you choose to appoint a Private Agent.

Once we have received a price for the work from the contractor we will make arrangements for the grant to be approved. When the grant is approved the contractor will call you to arrange a start date. Normally the work can take up to 10 days to complete and we will call you to inspect the work after it is finished.

If any problems occur during the first year following completion of the work the contractor will carry out the repair. The shower unit has a manufacturer's warranty and the contractor will complete the warranty registration on your behalf.

If your Occupational Therapist is also recommending a stair lift or vertical lift, we will make arrangements to have this fitted.

There are conditions to this grant:

1. The disabled person must intend to live in the property for 5 years.
2. If your home is disposed of by sale, assignment, transfer or otherwise within 10 years of completion of the adaptation, the Council will ask you to pay back anything over the first £5,000 of the grant (to a maximum of £10,000). The repayment condition can be waived in certain specific circumstances and the Council must take into account:
 - the financial hardship it would cause;
 - whether the disposal is due to an employment related relocation;
 - whether the disposal is connected with the physical or mental health or well-being of the grant recipient or of a disabled occupant of the premises: and
 - whether the disposal will enable the recipient of the grant to provide care to a disabled person.

What we will do:

- Remove your bath and replace the bathroom floor covering with a non-slip floor to allow water to drain away through a new floor gully
- Provide a half height shower screen and curtain
- Install an electric shower designed for people with medical needs
- Replace your toilet and sink – the sink will have lever taps
- Tile the shower area floor to ceiling
- Replace the tiles above your sink
- Install two grab rails in the shower area
- Upgrade the electrical equipment and wiring in your bathroom including a new light, fan and switches

We may need to fit a drainage pump in your bathroom and the contractor will discuss this with you. Your Occupational Therapist will order a shower chair for you.

What we won't do:

- Tile the whole bathroom
- Decorate the bathroom

For more information about this adaptation, please contact Sandwell Enquiry on 0121 569 2266 or HomeImprovement_Agency@sandwell.gov.uk

