

A Guide to Home Adaptations



A guide to adaptations to your home

What is a home adaptation?

Our homes can have a powerful influence on both our physical and mental wellbeing. We aim to help people with disabilities to continue to live in their own homes, where this is feasible, by providing equipment and making modifications to meet their needs.

Adapting your home can restore or enable independent living, privacy, confidence, and dignity for you and your family. Help is available if you, a member of your family, or someone you care for is having difficulty getting around at home because of:

- A physical disability
- A learning disability
- Age related needs
- Autism
- A cognitive impairment, such as dementia
- A progressive condition, such as motor neurone disease
- A terminal illness
- A mental health condition

We may be able to help with adaptations to your home. Every adaptation is tailored to your specific needs to support your independence and comfort, making it safer and easier to get around and manage everyday tasks.

Types of adaptations

What is an adaptation?

A home adaptation can make it easier and/or safer for you or your family to use your home

Adaptations fall into two categories, minor works and major works

Minor adaptations

Under the Care Act 2014, anyone assessed as requiring minor adaptations can have these installed at no charge up to a cost of £500.00

Examples



Grab rails to make it easier to get in and out of your home.



Grab rails in the bathroom area to make it safer when using this room.



Lever taps to help you use your washing facilities or the kitchen sink.

Whilst we are happy to fund adaptations like these, requests must be supported by an assessment from an Occupational Therapist.

Major adaptations

These are complex building works that must also be recommended by an Occupational Therapist.

Examples



Installing a **ramp** to access your property



Installing **stair lifts** or **step lifts**.



Fitting **low level kitchen units** for accessible food preparation/ cooking.



Widening doors to allow access to a living room or bedroom



Improving **access to your garden**

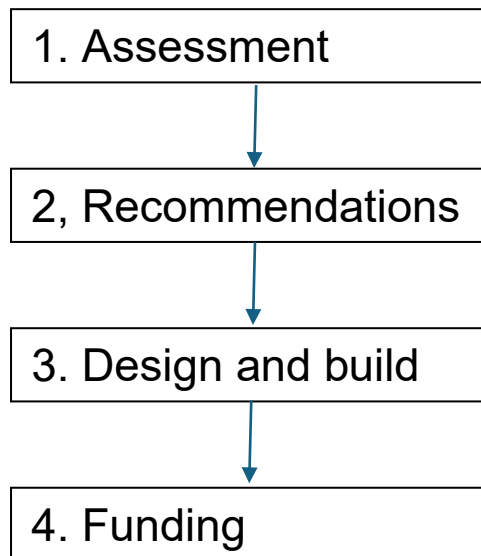


Providing **accessible sockets, switches** and controls for power, light and heat.



Fitting a **level access** (walk in) shower or **wet room**

How to apply: a step-by-step guide



1. Assessment

As a Sandbourne resident, please contact the BCP Adult Social Care Team to request an initial assessment from an Occupational Therapy specialist at:

Adult Social Care Hub
St Stephens Road
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH2 6EB

Telephone: 01202 123 654

Email ASCHub@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

If you live in the Dorset Council area you should contact the Dorset Accessible Homes Service:

Telephone: 0330 00 300 10

Web: www.dorsetaccessiblehomes.co.uk/our-services/

If you live in Ringwood, you should contact the New Forest Disability Information Service:

Telephone: 01425 628750
Email: info@newforestdis.org.uk

Occupational Therapists are skilled at assessing the functional needs of older and disabled people to help them to continue to live safely and independently at home. Without this assessment we are unable to carry out adaptations in your home.

After the assessment a recommendation will be made as to what is needed for you to continue living independently. This help may be met by providing you with community equipment.

2. Recommendations

A recommendation will be made to the Grants Team as to what equipment or adaptations are needed to enable you to continue to live safely and independently at home. Someone from that team will contact you to help you through the application process. Works cannot progress without an Occupational Therapist recommendation.

The Grants Team will assess the recommendations to decide what adaptations will be considered. They have to ensure that these meet the necessary legal requirements, are appropriate to meet your needs, and practical to install given the structural limitations of your home.

The Grants Team will then seek permission in principle from Sandbourne to undertake the adaptation. This is usually given, however depending on the type of adaptation you may be required to enter an agreement with us to pay for any on-going maintenance or servicing after any warranty period has expired.

3. Design and build

Someone from the service will help you in designing any adaptations, making all the necessary applications to planning and / or building control. The same person will oversee your case throughout the process. If the adaptation is not suitable at this stage, you might have to consider alternative funding.

Once the works are completed, we would ask that you let us know so that we can arrange to inspect the adaptation, and if necessary, collect any documentation that you may have been given about the manufacturer or installer and / or the future servicing or maintenance of it.

4. Funding

The funding for the adaptation will vary depending on your circumstances. All residents have the option to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant. However, these grants are **means-tested** and therefore may not be available to all who apply. You may also have to pay a contribution towards the work.

Grants for an adaptation undertaken for a child under the age of 18 will not be means tested.

5. Further information

There are several ways to find out more about adaptations and support.

Online resources

www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/apply-for-dfg

Major adaptations

Telephone: 01202 123654

Email: ASCHub@bcpccouncil.gov.uk

Cases involving children

Please contact the Children's Social Care Team

Telephone 01202 127773

Email: ot.bso@bcpccouncil.gov.uk

For New Forest and Dorset please see the contact information provided in the earlier Assessment section.

You can write to us at our registered office:

Craighleith First Floor Office, 9 Derby Road, Bournemouth, BH1 3PX

Email: info@sandbourne.org.uk

Website: www.sandbournehousingassociation.org.uk

Telephone: 01202 671222

Please note that telephone calls to the registered office number above may be recorded for information and training purposes.

In addition, we do have a range of other leaflets on specific topics, available on our website or upon request from our office.

First published September 2026