

Your rights

If you would like more information on your rights or have any questions after reading this leaflet, please get in touch. We can also give you the contact details for your local council, occupational therapy department or the Department for Work and Pensions.



Local office contact details

Berkshire, Wiltshire, West of England, Devon

T 0800 587 2325

E contact@sovereign.org.uk

(all enquiries and out-of-hours emergencies)

Dorset

T 01202 460460 or 0800 169 5686

E contactdorset@sovereign.org.uk

(repairs and out-of-hours emergencies)

Oxfordshire

T 01235 536001 or 0300 500 0926

E contactoxon@sovereign.org.uk

(repairs and out-of-hours emergencies)

Hampshire

T 0800 988 4858

E contacthants@sovereign.org.uk

(all enquiries and out-of-hours emergencies)

Head office

Sovereign Housing Association Limited

Woodlands

90 Bartholomew Street

Newbury RG14 5EE

sovereign.org.uk

 facebook.com/asksovereign

 [@sovereignha](https://twitter.com/sovereignha)

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H&C-28142 Aug15inh



Aids and adaptations



Aids and adaptations

If you, or someone you live with, has a disability or is struggling to live independently, we may be able to help you adapt your home to make everyday tasks easier.

What adaptations are available?

Simple aids

Simple aids are devices that make everyday tasks such as getting out of the bath easier. They include:

- handrails
- grab rails, and
- lever taps

If the cost of buying and fitting a disabled aid is less than £500, we can install it for you. We will arrange, pay for and complete the work within 20 working days of your application.

If you've applied for a grant, we may be able to offer simple aids to support you whilst you're waiting.

Minor adaptations

Minor adaptations make movement and access around your home easier and include:

- accessible doorways
- over-bath showers
- straight stair lifts
- dropped kerbs, and
- concrete ramps

Minor adaptations cost between £500 and £2,500 and need to be recommended by an occupational therapist.

We will pay for them but they can take up to six months to complete, as we may need to get planning permission or wait for good weather to carry out the work. Once we've received the request from your occupational therapist, we'll let you know how long the process will take.

Major adaptations

Major adaptations involve construction work. They include:

- level access showers
- curved rail stair lifts
- through-floor lifts, and
- wheelchair access

Major adaptations generally cost more than £2,500. We're not able to pay for them directly but we can help you find funding. You might be able to get help to pay for major adaptations by applying for a Disabled Facility Grant (DFG).

Disabled Facility Grant (DFG)

You can apply to your local council to help pay for major adaptations to your home.

We can help you with the technical side of the process, such as agreeing plans, specifications and getting permissions.

We'll also help your local council complete the work as quickly as possible. This could include getting planning and building permission before the work can start.

If the council agrees that the adaptation needs doing, and the work is reasonable and practical, they will give you a grant.

This process can take some time as we work with other agencies but we will keep you updated.

The grant is means-tested so, depending on your financial situation, you may have to pay towards the cost of the adaptation.

If you don't qualify for a Disabled Facility Grant, you might be able to get help from certain charities. If this is the case, we can put you in contact with them.

What happens if your home is unsuitable for an adaptation?

If your home is unsuitable, we'll discuss other options with you. This may include moving you to a different home that can be adjusted to suit your needs.