



## Further information

Please contact our  
access to adult social care helpline



on **0300 555 0055** (Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm)  
An emergency duty team is available on **0300 555 8574**, at all other times

Web [www.dudley.gov.uk/asc](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/asc)

Email [accessteam.dachs@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:accessteam.dachs@dudley.gov.uk)

Post **Brierley Hill Health & Social Care Centre**  
**Venture Way, Brierley Hill DY5 1RU**

**Dudley Community  
Information Directory**

Your online tool to find information about care and support,  
activities, health services and much more across Dudley borough.  
[www.dudleyci.co.uk](http://www.dudleyci.co.uk)

If you require any assistance with regards to this document or would like to request an interpreter, large print or audio version, please contact the communications team on 01384 811561

# Adaptations

A guide to adapting your home to meet your disability needs





## About this booklet

This booklet provides information for people looking to adapt their home to better suit their needs, or the needs of a member of the household, which arise from a disability, illness or health condition.

## What is an adaptation?

An adaptation to the home makes it easier for someone living there who is struggling to manage. It can be a minor adaptation, such as handrails, stair rails, or grab rails. Alternatively, it can be a major adaptation, a stair lift, walk in shower, even a ground floor home extension.

## Who can request an assessment for an adaptation?

Under the Care Act 2014, anyone living in Dudley Borough with needs arising from, or related to a physical or mental impairment, or illness, is entitled to an assessment for an adaptation.

### **An assessment can be requested for any of the following reasons:**

- You (or someone in the household) is having difficulties getting in or out of the bath, or shower
- You (or someone in the household) is having difficulties accessing the toilet
- You (or someone in the household) is having difficulties climbing the stairs
- You (or someone in the household) is unable to get into the home safely

At this point, you may also want to consider other options, such as alternative housing options, particularly if your home has external steps, is under occupied, overcrowded or you are struggling to manage your home's bills, or the garden's maintenance.

## What is the process for getting a home adaptation?

There is a four-step process:

- Assessment
- Recommendation
- Design and build of the adaptation
- Funding

## Assessment

**Firstly, you will have an assessment from one of our Occupational Therapists or a suitably trained assessor.**

The assessment will identify your needs, what you are struggling with and how this is affecting your life and wellbeing, as well as the outcomes you want to achieve in your daily life.

Following the assessment, a recommendation will be made as to what is needed for you to continue living independently in the home. Please note not all assessments will lead to an assessment being recommended. Sometimes your needs may be met by providing you with community equipment, or by identifying a rehabilitation programme, or lifestyle change.

If an adaptation to the home is recommended it will be a minor or major one.

**Minor adaptations** - examples include handrails to pathways outside the home, or to steps, stair rails or grab rails inside the home.

**Major adaptations** - examples include new ramps, walk in showers in the bathroom, the installation of a stair lift, or vertical through the floor lift, an external lift, or ground floor extension to provide sleeping or bathing facilities.

## Recommendation

**If the recommendation from the assessment is for equipment, or a rehabilitation programme, then the Occupational Therapist will work to get this arranged for you.**

If a minor or major adaptation is recommended, this will be issued by the Occupational Therapist to the council's relevant housing team to arrange. At this stage, alternative housing options may also be discussed with you.

## Design and build of the adaptation

**All minor adaptations will be dealt with by the council's relevant housing team and passed to an approved builder to arrange.**

For all major adaptations you will receive an initial visit from a member of the housing team who will decide if the adaptation is achievable and workable in your home. There are a number of factors that can affect this decision and they include (but aren't limited to) the current access to the home, the viability of what is being requested and in some cases the occupancy of the home.

If the adaptation isn't suitable at this stage, then you might need to consider alternative housing options.

If the adaptation is considered appropriate then the housing team may also be able to help with not only designing it, but also making all the necessary applications to planning and building control, building over sewer notices and party wall applications. They may also help with appointing a suitable contractor and administering payments, as well as making sure that all work is done correctly.

## Funding

**The funding for the adaptation will vary depending on your circumstances. It may involve a financial assessment, where we decide if the council will pay for it, or if you have to contribute to the funding in part, or in full.**

Note that the Occupational Therapist is not involved in the funding process.

If you require more information on the funding process and the financial assessment please contact us on 01384 817086. We are happy to advise you further.

## For further information

For more information on adaptations, or to request an assessment you can contact:

**Our Access to adult social care helpline - 0300 555 0055**

**Dudley Home Improvement Service - 01384 817086**

**Or visit our website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk), search adaptations**