

Disabled facilities grants for adapting your home

A guide for residents of Reigate & Banstead

What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

A Disabled Facilities Grant is available from your District/Borough Council for a range of works needed to help a disabled person to live more independently in his or her own home. Disabled Facilities Grants mainly help to ensure that disabled persons can move more freely and safely around their homes and have access to essential facilities.

Types of work could include:

- Building ramps and widening doors.
- Installing a stair lift.
- Adapting a kitchen for a wheelchair user.
- Converting a bathroom into a shower room.
- Providing accessible toilet facilities.

Who can apply?

- A disabled person can apply if they are an owner-occupier or a tenant (including a Housing Association).
- Anyone who is an owner-occupier or a tenant and who has a disabled adult or child living in their home can apply on their behalf.
- A Landlord may apply on behalf of a disabled tenant.
- In each of these cases, the disabled person must be registered or registerable as disabled.

How much do I get?

The amount of grant you get will be decided by a test of financial resources (means test) which will look at your income and capital. This will determine how much you can afford to pay towards the cost of the works. The maximum grant if you have no contribution to make is £45,000.

How do I apply?

As a first step, you should either contact your Social Care Team of Surrey County Council or Environmental Health at the Borough Council, in order to discuss your situation. If it appears that you may be eligible for a grant, an Occupational Therapist from the Social Care Team will carry out an assessment of your needs. He/she will consider with you and, if appropriate, your family and carer, what adaptations are necessary.

Points to Note

- Works must not be started until formal grant approval has been received.
- Borough Council officers carry out the means testing of all Disabled Facilities Grant applicants.
- Details of Disabled Facilities Grant works are determined by the Borough Council.
- Our Home Improvement Agency provider, Millbrook Healthcare, can produce plans and specifications, arrange quotes and contractors and supervise Disabled Facilities Grant works. Fees for such work can be included in any Grant paid.
- Building Regulation approval and Planning Permission may be required for some adaptations.
- Grants can sometimes be paid in stages as work progresses.
- Applicants have twelve months from the date of approval in which to complete works.
- If within 10 years from the date of approval the applicant, the qualified owner, disposes of their interest in the premises, and the amount of grant exceeded £5,000, The Authority may demand repayment of the sum of the grant that exceeds £5,000. Such a demand may not be less than £500 or exceed an amount in excess of £10,000 and must be reasonable in all the circumstances.

Useful contacts

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Environmental Health:

Phone: **01737 276417**

Email: **privatesectorhousing@reigate-banstead.gov.uk**

Write to: **Environmental Health,
Town Hall,
Castlefield Road,
Reigate,
Surrey
RH2 0SH**

Surrey County Council Social Care Team Banstead, Redhill, Reigate & Horley Areas:

Phone: **01737 737179**

Email: **reigate.bansteadlocalityteam@surreycc.gov.uk**

Millbrook Healthcare Ltd:

Phone: **0330 124 3758**

Write to: **The Old Crumpet Factory,
Brockham Lane,
Brockham,
Surrey
RH3 7EL**

You may find it helpful to make a note of the person(s) dealing with the enquiry.

Social Services Occupational Therapist

Name:

Tel:

Borough Council Officer

Name:

Tel: