

Guide to aids and adaptations for your home



This leaflet is for customers of HomeZone Living, Bromford Support and those living in Supported Housing.

HomeZone Living knows that many of its current and future customers may have different living requirements due to their disability or that of a family member.

We want to provide homes where people really want to stay, and sometimes this means altering your home as your needs change.

We work closely with Staffordshire County Council, Social Care and Health and the local Home Improvement Agency to provide some of the major adaptations and equipment that can help people who have a disability. This not only helps people maintain their independence, but it can also greatly improve their quality of life.

This leaflet explains what type of service we can provide and who else may be able to help.

What is an adaptation?

An adaptation is some kind of alteration to your home to help you move around in it independently. This could be alterations to the kitchen, bathroom or any other part of your home to make it easier for you or a member of your household to use your home to do everyday personal tasks. It may also include extra equipment, fixtures and fittings.

Who can benefit from an adaptation?

You or anyone in your household who is elderly, disabled, or less able to manage everyday personal and domestic tasks, or your carer, to make it easier for them to take care of you.

Who pays for an adaptation?

This will depend on the equipment and alterations needed.

Equipment and adaptations will usually be paid for from the following sources:

Minor adaptations

HomeZone has a budget for doing minor adaptations costing £1,000 or less. Staffordshire County Council, Social Care and Health can also pay for minor adaptations costing £1,000 or less.

Minor adaptations can include the following:

- fitting grab rails, including free-standing handrails by front and back doors
- widening doorways
- altering doors to sliding or reverse opening
- providing extra electrical sockets for specialist equipment
- fitting a key box to the outside of the property
- fitting lever taps
- fitting a half step
- widening the path or driveway
- making lighting improvements.

Major adaptations

Major adaptations are those costing more than £1,000. These will be paid for, subject to approval, by a Disabled Facilities Grant through the local council or through Homezone's investment programme.

If your home needs a major adaptation (see list below), you will be referred to Staffordshire County Council, Social Care and Health for an occupational therapist to assess your home and your needs.

Major adaptations can include the following:

- installing a level-access shower
- making your home wheelchair-accessible
- fitting a replacement kitchen for wheelchair access
- providing a ramp
- fitting a stairlift, steplift or vertical lift.

Sometimes, it may not be possible to adapt your home. If this is the case, we will try to find you another more suitable home to move to and will help you move. This can be done by:

- using the Tenants Incentive Scheme
- exchanging with another tenant ('mutual exchange')
- transferring to another home.

If you'd like more information on any of these options, please contact us.

Who will maintain the equipment?

HomeZone will maintain all equipment installed and work done as part of an adaptation once the guarantee period ends, unless otherwise agreed with the resident or the local council or Social Care and Health.

Stair lifts, vertical lifts and hoisting equipment will be owned and maintained by Staffordshire County Council, Social Care and Health.

Who should I contact about an adaptation?

Call us first and ask to speak to our Asset Management Team. They will tell you whether an occupational therapist will need to assess you or whether one of our surveyors may need to visit you. If you need a major adaptation and an occupational therapist has to assess you, we can refer you to Social Care and Health or you can contact them yourself on 01543 510 800.

If you are a customer of Bromford Support, please speak to your support worker for more information.

How long might I have to wait?

Simpler adaptations such as installing grab rails, lever taps or fitting a key box outside of the property should usually be completed within four weeks. More complex adaptations may take a while longer.

If you have difficulty understanding this information or would prefer to receive an alternative format (i.e. translated, audio, Braille or large print) please contact us.

HomeZone Living

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Email customerservices@homezonehousing.org.uk

**If you are a customer of Bromford Support,
please speak to the Bromford colleague who is
working with you for more information.**



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