

Home adaptations, equipment and aids

You can make changes to your home or get equipment to help you with day-to-day tasks and activities such as getting

- in and out of your bath
 - around indoors or outdoors
 - dressed
 - on and off chairs
 - in and out of bed
 - making a hot drink or a meal
 - going up and down the stairs
 - using a telephone
 - watching television or listening
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Types of equipment available

There are a range of things that you can buy to help you with

- **personal care and hygiene**, such as grab rails, bath boards and raised toilet seats.
 - **moving around the home**, such as walking sticks, zimmer frames or hand rails.
 - **preparing food**, such as lever taps and adapted kitchen utensils.
 - **beds and chairs**, such as a bed raiser.
 - **your safety and peace of mind** for example if you had an injury or fall ill at home. Such as a [alarms and telecare equipment](#), including vibrating alert alarms, personal loop systems for deaf/deafblind/hard of hearing people.
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Types of adaptation available

- **Minor adaptations** such as fitting lever taps in the kitchen, installing a ramp to your front door, or hand rails around the home.
- **Major adaptations** such as installing a downstairs shower room, widening doorways, or lowering the work tops in your kitchen.

[Age UK England](#) have a helpful factsheet on [adapting your home](#).

Choosing and buying your own equipment

You can find out what equipment you need by completing the free online self assessment tool [Your Equipment Newcastle](#). You will receive tailored information to help you choose equipment for your home without having to wait for an assessment.

Get advice on which equipment is right for you

It is important to get the right advice first, to avoid making an expensive mistake. There are a number of services that can offer advice or assessments to help make sure you choose the right equipment for your needs.

- [BLISS=Ability](#) can advise you on what equipment is available and where you can get it from..
- [Care & Repair Newcastle](#) offer advice, as well as offering a free loan to buy a stair lift or ceiling hoist. They manage the [disabled facilities grant](#).
- [Disability North](#) has a demonstration area with stair lifts, a kitchen, bathroom and shower as well as walkers, risers, shoes and wheelchairs. They provide a local retailer list
- [Disabled Living Foundation](#) provides advice about equipment for older and disabled people.
- [Equipment and Services Chat BOT](#) – a virtual adviser that can direct you to services and equipment
- [Peacocks Medical Group](#) have a shop in Newcastle City Centre where you can see and buy equipment.
- [RIDC](#) conducts consumer research on products for older and disabled people. They have launched [Rate It](#) which enables you to read reviews of products by customers. They have produced a helpful guide to [bath accessories to help you get in and out of the bath](#).
- [Your GP surgery](#) may be able to help you to get equipment through, for example, the Community Nursing Service.
- [Yourequipmentnewcastle.org.uk](#) provides an online self-help tool that provides professional advice and guidance for those who would like help to live independently at home.
- [Community Health & Social Care Direct](#) can organise an occupational therapy needs assessment. Occupational Therapists assess and provide equipment and minor adaptations to enable you to live at home for longer
- [Disabled Services Centre](#) have a wheelchair and specialist seating service. They work with patients, their family and carers in Newcastle and across the North East to help with mobility, comfort and support.

Equipment catalogues are available online from shops such as Boots or Argos. A number of charities also have catalogues of products such as Age UK England.

Buying second-hand equipment

[Disability Equipment Service](#) is the largest source of second-hand equipment for sale in the UK.

[Disability North](#) also list second-hand equipment for sale.

Fitting your own equipment

It may be wise to arrange a [needs assessment](#) through [Community Health & Social Care Direct](#) first. They will give you tailored information and advice to help you find the right equipment or aids.

[Disability North](#) can give advice on different types of equipment and adaptations, where to purchase it and how to arrange for the work to be done.

If you want to fit your own equipment, you can arrange for a reliable tradesperson or handyman to carry out the work. Find more information on our article [Getting repairs and decorating done](#).

Maintaining your equipment

[Community Health and Social Care Direct](#) can give you a list of companies who can help with maintaining your equipment.

Maintaining your stairlift

These organisations can help if your stairlift (or other types of equipment) need repairing or maintaining. They will explain the cost of call out and repair:

- [Direct Services, Durham County Council](#)
 - [Dolphin Stairlifts](#)
 - [Easy Lift](#)
 - [Stannah Stairlifts](#)
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Hire equipment

It may be more cheaper to hire equipment such as wheelchairs, bathroom aids or walking frames if you only need it for a short time. You can hire equipment from

- [DLD Wheelchair Rental](#)
 - [British Red Cross](#)
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Borrow equipment

[Care & Repair Newcastle](#) offer a free loan to buy a stair lift or ceiling hoist. To find out if you can have this you need to have an occupational therapy [needs assessment](#).

Contact [Community Health & Social Care Direct](#) to ask for an assessment. If you need a stairlift or hoist they will install it for you for free. it's not means-tested so there is no cost to get the equipment itself. They will also maintain it for you. They will remove the equipment when you request it.

[Newcastle City Loan Equipment Service \(NCLES\)](#) provides equipment to help with your daily

living and nursing needs at home. They can install, maintain, repair, decontaminate and recycle a wide range of equipment. You need an assessment from a health professional to apply.

Help to pay for equipment and adaptations

[Community Health & Social Care Direct](#) can arrange a free [Needs Assessment](#), with a social worker or an Occupational Therapist. After your assessment, they will tell you about the equipment that is available. If you choose to have some equipment or adaptations, the Council will use their approved contractors to carry out the work for you, including placing the orders and managing the work.

It's also a good idea to [check you're receiving all the benefits you're entitled to](#). You can use your [Personal Budget](#) to buy your own equipment.

Read more on InformationNOW on [how to pay for adaptations to your home](#).

Home owners or private renters

If you live in your own home or in a privately rented property, you may be able to get a [disabled facilities grant](#) to help pay for equipment and adaptations, such as installing ramps, stairlifts and bathroom equipment costing over £1000. It may be wise to arrange a [needs assessment](#) through [Community Health & Social Care Direct](#) first. They will give you tailored information and advice to help you find the right equipment or aids.

[Care & Repair England](#) have a workbook which helps you to think about your [Housing, Care and Related Finance in Later Life](#).

Council Tenants

If you live in a council house, you can ask [Your Homes Newcastle](#) to make the necessary adaptations to your home free of charge.

Charities that help with equipment and aids

- [REMAP](#) designs and provides free aids for disabled people.
- [Care & Repair Newcastle](#) with Newcastle Council offer a free loan to buy a stairlift. [Community Health & Social Care Direct](#) will arrange an occupational therapy [Needs Assessment](#) to make sure you get the right product.
- [Royal British Legion](#) support veterans to get funding and grants to adapt your home and receive new equipment.
- [Citizens Advice Newcastle](#) has information on charities that can offer financial help to former employees from a particular trade who are struggling to pay for the items they need.
- [SSAFA Forces Help](#) or [ABF The Soldiers' Charity](#) may be able to help pay for equipment and adaptations if you are a veteran.
- [Caring Hands Charity](#) offer a range of small equipment aids, free of charge and also offer some equipment aids for loan or sale. You can access this service with an assessment

carried out by a social or health professional. See their website for further information.

- There are a number of neurological charities that offer grants and loans. For instance, MS Society and MND Association. Your specialist nurse will have the relevant information.
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VAT relief on equipment

If you're disabled or have a long-term illness, you won't be charged VAT on products designed or adapted for your own personal or domestic use such as:

- Mobility Scooters
- Stairlifts
- Wheelchairs

To get the product VAT free your disability has to qualify. For VAT purposes, you're disabled or have a long-term illness if:

- you have a physical or mental impairment that affects your ability to carry out everyday activities, eg blindness
- you have a condition that's treated as chronic sickness, like diabetes
- you're terminally ill

See [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for more information.

Check you're claiming the right benefits

There are various disability-related benefits that may be available to you including:

- [Disability Living Allowance](#)
- [Personal Independence Payment](#)
- [Attendance Allowance](#)
- [Carer's Allowance](#)

See [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for more information.

Last updated: October 8, 2021

Useful Organisations

Caring Hands Charity

Email: contact@caringhandscharity.org.uk

Website: www.caringhandscharity.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 261 5234

Address: 34 Wretham Place, NE2 1XU

Citizens Advice Newcastle (CAN)

Website: <http://citizensadvice-newcastle.org.uk>

Telephone: 0191 229 2750

Address: 4th Floor, City Library, NE1 8AX

Disability North

Email: reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk

Website: www.disabilitynorth.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 284 0480

Address: The Dene Centre, NE3 1PH

RIDC (Research Institute for Disabled Consumers)

Email: mail@ridc.org.uk

Website: www.ridc.org.uk

Telephone: 0207 427 2460

Address: Unit 10 Blenheim Court, N7 9NY

Community Health and Social Care Direct – Newcastle City Council

Email: scd@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care>

Telephone: 0191 278 8377

Address: CHSCD Newcastle City Council, NE4 9LU

Disabled Living Foundation

Email: info@dlf.org.uk

Website: <http://www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0207 289 6111

Address: Unit 1, SW11 3SE

SSAFA – The Armed Forces Charity

Email: tyneandwear.branch@ssafa.org.uk

Website: <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/tyne-wear>

Telephone: 0191 222 0803

Address: Fenham Barracks, NE2 4NP

Royal British Legion

Website: www.britishlegion.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 222 0803

Address: 199 Borough High Street, SE1 1AA

Disability Equipment Service

Email: team@disabilityequipmentservice.co.uk

Website: <https://disabilityequipmentservice.co.uk/>

Telephone: 0191 222 0803

BLISS=Ability

Email: enquiries@blissability.co.uk

Website: www.blissability.co.uk

Telephone: 0191 427 1666

Address: 34-36 New Green Street, NE33 5DL

REMAP

Email: Tyne.Chairman@remapgroups.org.uk

Website: <http://www.remap.org.uk/>

Telephone: 01661 823 620

DLD Wheelchair Rental

Email: info@dldwheelchairrental.co.uk

Website: www.dldwheelchairrental.co.uk

Telephone: 0191 261 0007

Address: 9 - 18 Byker Bridge, NE1 2NS

Newcastle City Loan Equipment Service

Website: <https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/services/loan-equipment-service/>

Telephone: 0191 282 3484

Address: Geoffrey Rhodes Centre, NE6 2UZ

ABF The Soldiers' Charity

Email: supporter@soldierscharity.org

Website: <http://www.soldierscharity.org/>

Telephone: 020 7901 8900

Address: Mountbarrow House , SW1W 9RB

Stannah Lifts

Email: gatesheadadmin@stannah.co.uk

Website: www.stannah.co.uk

Telephone: 0191 4600010

Address: Wellington Rd, NE11 9JL

Easy Lift Stairlifts

Email: info@easylift.org.uk

Website: www.easylift.org.uk

Telephone: 01207 503600

Address: Unit G3A , DH8 5SP

Direct Services, Durham County Council

Email: propertyhelpdesk@durham.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 267890

Address: St. John's Road, DH7 8XQ

Royal British Legion – Newcastle upon Tyne

Website: <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0808 802 8080

Address: RBL Area Office, NE1 8AQ

Care & Repair Newcastle

Email: careandrepairnewcastle@newcastle.gov.uk

Website: www.careandrepairnewcastle.co.uk

Telephone: 0191 211 5836

Address: Newcastle City Council, NE1 8QN

Peacocks Medical Group

Email: karen.sagar@peacocks.net

Website: <https://www.peacocks.net/>

Telephone: 0191 232 7894

Address: 1 St. Thomas Street, NE1 4LE

Age UK England

Email: contact@ageuk.org.uk

Website: www.ageuk.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 232 7894

Address: Tavis House, WC1H 9NA

Your Equipment Newcastle

Website: <https://www.yourequipmentnewcastle.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0191 232 7894

Address: Adult Social Care, NE1 8AQ

British Red Cross

Email: redcross.org.uk

Website: www.redcross.org.uk

Telephone: 0191 273 7961

Address: British Red Cross, NE4 8SR

Disabled Services Centre

Telephone: 0191 223 1184

Address: Wheelchair Services Disablement Services Centre , NE7 7AF

Minor Adaptations Service

Email: mars@newcastle.gov.uk

Telephone: 0191 277 1219

Address: Care & Repair Newcastle, NE1 8QN

Access Solutions

Email: enquiries@accesssolutions.org.uk

Website: www.accesssolutions.org.uk

Telephone: 01207 291703

Address: Woodland Court, DH9 7BF

Equipment Chat BOT at Newcastle City Council

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/care-and-support/adults/contact-care-and-support-adults>

Telephone: 01207 291703

Flexible Support Options Ltd (Brilan)

Email: info@flexiblesupportoptions.co.uk

Website: <http://www.flexiblesupportoptions.co.uk>

Telephone: 0191 261 7306

Address: c/o Balmoral Court, NE6 2DB

Related Articles

[Home care](#)

[Looking after someone](#)

[Your Care: Needs assessments](#)

[Your Care: Financial assessments](#)

[Blue Badge Scheme](#)

[Nexus TaxiCard Scheme – Accessible Transport](#)

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