



Guidance when applying for
a **Disabled Facilities Grant** to
install a homelift



Disabled Facilities Grant Legislation

A handy guide to applying.

Overview:

If your disability affects your daily activities, you may be entitled to a **Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)**. A DFG is there to pay for essential housing adaptations, such as a homelift, to help you stay in your home and live an independent life. This guide includes information on deciding if a homelift is right for you, applying for a DFG and how an Occupational Therapist can help.



Homelifts

Also referred to as through-floor lifts or domestic lifts, a homelift is installed into your home to allow easy access from one floor to another. Whether you require access to multiple floors, have limited space or use a wheelchair, there are various solutions and models available.

Practical benefits of a Stiltz Homelift:

- Homelifts are the ideal solution if you find using stairs difficult and you may be at risk of injury caused by a slip, trip or a fall.
- A homelift may give you the freedom to move around your property with ease, enabling you to remain in your home as opposed to moving to a ground floor flat or bungalow. Relocating to another property can be expensive with legal fees, stamp duty and removal costs.
- A homelift is a more cost-effective option than building a bedroom / wet room on the ground floor of your existing property.
- Homelifts are a safe, reliable solution for wheelchair users if transferring independently is difficult or simply not possible.
- Homelifts are a practical addition to the home as they allow you to move heavy items between floors that you might otherwise struggle with on the stairs.
- Homelifts can add value to your home and are an attractive addition should you want to move.

Homelift or Stairlift?

Homelifts are a safe, reliable, future-proofed alternative to stairlifts and are becoming increasingly popular. Consider the following points before you select a homelift or stairlift:

- With a stairlift you will need to feel confident about transferring independently to a stairlift seat, especially at the top of the stairs.
- If your staircase is narrow and you have a stairlift, other members of the household may struggle to use the stairs safely, especially children or elderly family members. In some cases, a stairlift may not be suitable due to the design of your staircase.
- If your condition is likely to worsen, consider your options for the future. If there is a chance you may have balance issues or problems using a stairlift seat, you may wish to consider a homelift in preference to a stairlift which is a future-proofed solution.

Wheelchair Users

- If you opt for a stairlift and you are a wheelchair user, you will require two wheelchairs, one upstairs and one downstairs. You will also need ample space at the top and bottom of the stairs to position your wheelchair.
- If your ability to transfer is likely to change in the future, a stairlift may not be the right solution.

Disabled Facilities Grant

You may be eligible for a DFG available from your local authority. A DFG is there to pay for necessary and appropriate housing adaptations to help you stay in your home and live an independent life.

Key Facts

- A DFG is available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- In Scotland you can apply for an equipment and adaptations grant.
- A DFG is means-tested but will not affect any other benefits you receive.
- Means-testing does not apply to disabled children under 18 so parents' income will not be a factor.
- You must own the property or be a tenant, with the intention to stay there at least five years.



See how Stiltz have helped lots of people on our Customer Stories page:

www.stiltz.co.uk/home-lift-customer-stories/

Frequently Asked Questions

What can a DFG be used for?

You can use a grant for a variety of adaptations. These can include widening doors, installing ramps and improving access to rooms. Funds can also provide a heating system which is more suitable for your needs that may include adapted controls, lighting and ventilation.

For example, coal fires can be converted to gas and lower light switches or raised sockets could be introduced. If mobility challenges are more complex, telecare technology can provide a wireless solution for controlling lights and sockets.



What does means-tested mean?

Means-testing will determine whether an individual or family is eligible for a DFG in relation to income and savings.

Even if a household knows its income is too high to qualify, it is still worth applying for a DFG as being 'in the system' could be beneficial in the future. Particularly if you have multiple ailments or a developing condition, a rejected grant application will be recorded along with paid contribution to works.

This contribution can then be offset against further adaptations in the future in relation to a separate application – hence costing less. A subsequent application would need to be submitted within 10 years of the preceding submission for this benefit to apply.

What grant amount will I receive?

The amount you receive will depend on your assessed contribution which is dependent on your household income and household savings over £6000. You may be granted up to £30,000 in England, £36,000 in Wales and £25,000 in Northern Ireland.

When will I receive payment?

You will receive payment in instalments as the work progresses or in full when the work is finished. The council will either give you a cheque to pass onto your contractors or pay them directly.

This will be agreed once your application is approved. Payment will be made when the council is happy with the work and they have received an invoice from your contractors. Do not begin any work before your grant has been approved or this could affect your application.

How will I know if I am eligible?

If you or someone living in your house is disabled you can apply. You must own the property or be a tenant, with the intention of living there for a minimum of five years. The council must be satisfied that the work is 'necessary and appropriate' to meet the needs of the disabled person, and the request is reasonable and can be done. As an example, 'reasonable' means that the property needs to be fit for purpose so a home adaptation would work effectively. In the case of a home lift, if a property had woodworm, then this issue would need to be resolved before the DFG could proceed. If you are a tenant, you need permission from the landlord, or they can apply on your behalf.



How do I apply?

You should contact your local council where applications are usually handled by the Housing or Environmental Health department. You can either apply directly or be referred by a social worker or Occupational Therapist.

Occupational Therapists and how they can help

The role of the Occupational Therapist is to look at purposeful activities of daily living and to make activities possible through advice, equipment or adaptations. Adaptation can mean technique change or adaptation to your home or workplace. Occupational Therapists will discuss your circumstances and assess what adaptations need to be made for you to live an independent life as much as possible. The Occupational Therapist's recommendations are important as they are often required as evidence that the home adaptations are essential. Your local council may send an Occupational Therapist to your home to carry out an assessment, or you can arrange an appointment via the NHS if you're in hospital.



Stiltz Homelifts were the most competitively priced, even though their design and quality was much better. On completion, Stiltz invoiced the council directly for the DFG contribution and I paid the shortfall directly. All very easy.

Steve Waller, Stiltz customer - [click here to view Steve's story on our website](#)



Further information

For more information contact the <https://www.rcot.co.uk/>

You can also visit <https://www.which.co.uk/older-life-care>

or contact <https://www.dlf.org.uk/> a national charity which gives you impartial advice on independent living.

For more information on our range of homelifts, please visit www.stiltz.co.uk

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