



HELP AND ADVICE

Assisting tenants
with disabilities

DARTFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Help and advice

If you have a disability, adapting your home can be a complex and difficult procedure. However, advice is available from the Occupational Therapy department at Kent County Council. You can contact them on 01474 328664.

There are grants available to help you, as well as other organisations that offer practical assistance and advice:

Disabled facilities grant

This is a means tested grant, designed to help towards the costs of adapting your home, to ensure it meets the needs of a disabled person. Ask your housing officer for more information about this grant.

Moat Care and Repair Service

This is a Home Improvement Agency (HIA) and works in partnership with both Dartford Council and Gravesham Council to provide independent advice and assistance to the elderly, people with disabilities and others who require repairs, improvements and/or adaptations to their homes. The aim is to help keep homes suitable to live in and ensure residents are able to remain independent, if they so wish.

If you would like more information on this scheme, please ring the Private Sector team on 01322 343342/343674/343379.

Warm Front Scheme

The Warm Front scheme is designed to help householders on low incomes with the greatest health risks, for example, older people, families with children under 16 and people who are disabled or who have a long term illness. Grants of up to £2,500 are available for energy efficiency improvements. To find out if you qualify for a grant please call the Warm Front team on 0800 408 0684 or you can apply on line at www.warmfront.co.uk

Energy saving tips

Simple measures you can put into action today:

- Switch off the television at the plug. If you leave it on stand-by with the red light on, it will use up to 25% of the power it uses when the television is on.
- Turn your thermostat down by just one degree. This could cut your heating bills by up to 10%, and save you around £30 per year.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. A shower uses less than half the hot water it takes to fill up your bath, and can save you between £5 and £10 each year.
- Use low energy bulbs in lights that are left on for more than three hours a day.

- Wait until you have a full load of dirty washing before using your washing machine.
- Only boil just as much water as you actually need (but always remember to put enough water in to cover the element if you are using an electric kettle).
- Draw the curtains in the evenings when it's cold and the heating is on. This will stop heat escaping through your windows.
- Lag your hot water tank. This will keep the water hotter for longer and means you won't have to put your immersion on as often.
- Fit draught proofing to windows and doors.
- Make sure you put the fridge and/or freezer in a cool place, away from direct sunlight and other heat sources – the motors will not need to work so hard to keep your food cold.

Insulation

More than 40% of the heat lost from an average house is through loft spaces and walls. By insulating these areas, not only can fuel bills be reduced, your home can be made warmer. If loft insulation is installed to a depth of at least 250 mm (10"), up to 25% of heating costs can be saved.

If your home is un-insulated, the walls are responsible for as much as 33% of the overall lost heat. Insulating cavity walls provides one of the biggest energy savings in the home, reducing heat loss through the wall by up to 60%.

We can be responsible for insulating certain communal loft spaces in blocks of flats, but not for cavity wall insulation. If you think your communal loft does not have insulation, contact us on 01322 343368 so we can investigate. The costs of installing communal loft insulation will be recharged to leaseholders in their Actuals.

Heating

Upgrading your gas central heating could save you money on your heating bills. Replacing a 15 year old boiler could save you over 20% on your fuel bills or 32% if a condensing boiler was installed.

By upgrading central heating controls, you would improve the efficiency of your heating system and this could cut your heating costs by up to a further 17%.

By fitting a full controls package, you could save between £50 and £60 per year.

Bedroom release

If you find yourself living in a home that is larger than you want or need you can take advantage of the Downsize for Cash Scheme. The scheme helps Dartford Council tenants living in homes with two or more bedrooms, who are under-occupying their property, to move to a smaller home. If you qualify for the scheme, we'll do our best to ensure that you're given a high priority to move to an area of your choice within Dartford. We also offer a payment of £500 for each bedroom you give up, an additional

£100 to help towards your moving costs and we can also pay for your removal and packing expenses if required up to a maximum of £400. For more details see the *Downsize for cash* leaflet.

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	தமிழ்	Polski	česky	简体中文	Français
Punjabi	Tamil	Polish	Czech	Mandarin	French
01322 343610	01322 343611	01322 343612	01322 343613	01322 343614	01322 343615

If you or anybody you know requires this or any other council information in another language, please contact us and we will do our best to provide this for you. Braille, audio tape and large print versions of this document are available upon request.

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Calls are welcome via typetalk

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