Aberdeenshire COUNCIL NHS Grampian

Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership

Top Tips for Step Lifts



Are you unable to safely access your property?

Is a ramp unsuitable or unsafe?

If you answered yes, then it may be appropriate to consider a step lift.

If you feel you would like an assessment from the Occupational Therapy service to help with accessing your property, then please get in touch on the bottom of this leaflet.

If you would prefer to address these issues yourself then follow our top tips to ensure safe and effective access to your home.

Tip 1

What is a step lift?

A step lift can assist those in a wheelchair or with severe mobility difficulties to overcome a few steps at their access.

Step lifts are open platforms with a limited rise (usually around 1 metre) which allow people with physical difficulties to travel few steps up and down.

They may be installed on stairs or next to them to allow the person to be lifted to the doorway.

Tip 2

Doors

- Main access doors may need to be widened to accommodate the step lift.
- Consider whether your door opens inwards or outwards, this may need to be changed.
- Will you require an automatic door opening system or will there be space to turn and access the door handle at the top of the step lift?
- Thresholds may need to be lowered or levelled.

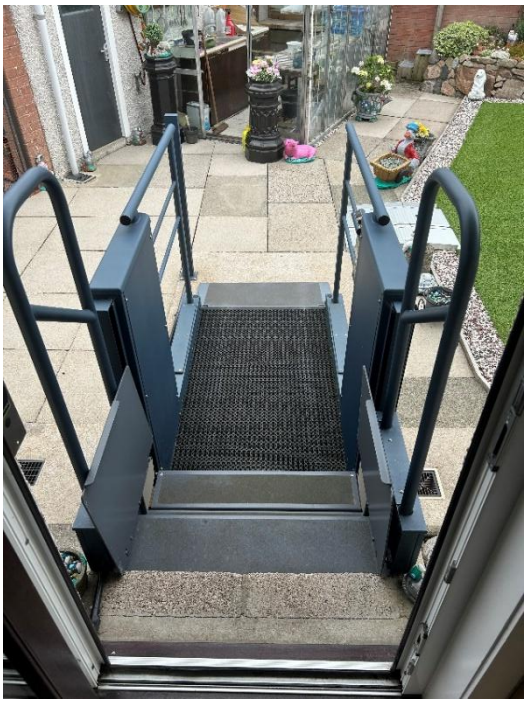


Tip 3

Layout/Space

- Steps may be required up to the top platform of the lift for ambulant persons to use.
- Alternative or additional paths may need to be created to facilitate access to the step lift or new steps.

- If it is a communal access, then written permission will be required from all homeowners.
- If the property is privately rented, then written permission from the landlord will be required.



Tip 4

Installation of a step lift:

- It is recommended that all step lift installations are carried out by a competent contractor and in accordance with building regulations



Tip 5

Other Considerations

- A power supply will be needed
- Consider notifying your home insurance
- If property is rented you will need permission from the landlord
- It is recommended to get more than one quote before proceeding.
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Tip 6

If you need more help?

You can refer yourself for an Occupational Therapy assessment telephoning the Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Customer Service on 03456 08 12 06 and choosing option 2 to make a referral to Occupational Therapy.

If you purchase a product due to a medical need, physical disability or sensory loss, then VAT exemption may be available. VAT relief forms are available on the UK Government website and are called Eligibility Declarations by a disabled person for VAT relief using the following webpage address **www.gov.uk**