Aberdeenshire COUNCIL NHS Grampian

Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership

# Top Tips for Through Floor Lifts



**Are you finding it difficult to access upper or lower floors of your home?**

**Is a stairlift unsuitable or unsafe?**

***If you answered yes, then it may be appropriate to consider a through floor lift.***

**If you feel you would like an assessment from the Occupational Therapy service for advice, 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 around your home.**

## Tip 1

### What is a through floor lift?

A through floor lift is a device which enables the user to vertically travel from one floor to another, through an opening in the ceiling/floor. It usually consists of either a platform or an enclosed cabin for the user to enter.

They are usually operated using a combination of hydraulic and electrically powered motor systems, which operate up and down on a track / rail style system. There are usually a number of safety features in place including emergency stop button, sensors on the rails and secondary power sources.

## Tip 2



### Types of through floor lifts:

There are two types of through floor lifts – standard through floor lifts and wheelchair accessible through floor lifts.

The wheelchair accessible ones have a larger overall footprint; wider doors; integrated ramps and an internal space capacity to accommodate a wheelchair.

## Tip 3

### Who would benefit from a through floor lift?

- Those that cannot use a stairlift
- Those that's property is not suitable for a stairlift due to narrow staircases or other issues
- Those who require manual handling equipment to assist with transfers.
- Those who are unable to move from their current property.

## Tip 4

**Cost of a through floor lift:**

Costing of a through floor lift can vary from company to company and this does not include the cost of the structural survey that may be required. It is advisable to get multiple quotes before proceeding.

## Tip 5

**Why would you install a through floor lift?**

- A through floor lift is often a cheaper alternative than undergoing extensive renovations
- Can offer an alternative to moving house

## Tip 6



**Considerations**

- Fire Safety and evacuation
- Loss of room space, both below and above
- Which type of through floor lift will meet your long-term needs?
- Access at front of the property
- Access at entrance and exit of through floor lift
- If you are not able to self-propel / operate a powered wheelchair, consider carers fitness to assist with the task or space for them within the lift itself. How many times a day would you be using the lift and the impact this will have on your routine?

## Tip 7

**Installation of a through floor lift:**

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

## Tip 8

**Alternatives to through floor lift:**

- Ground floor living
- Stairlift
- Stair climber
- Rehousing

## Tip 9

**If you need more help?**

You can refer yourself to Occupational Therapy for an assessment by telephoning the Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Customer Services 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**