

**Oxfordshire County Council  
Social and Community Services  
Adult Social Care  
Occupational Therapy**

**Information sheet for people considering the private installation  
of accessible showers**

**SHOWER SUPPLIERS**

Information can be obtained from all individual suppliers. Some suppliers provide a free survey and may be able to put you in touch with builders. We would advise you to ask for leaflets and consider more than one supplier. A list of suppliers is given below. This is not an exhaustive list, and further information can be obtained from The Disabled Living Foundation.

**AKW**

Tel: 01905 823298

[www.akw-ltd.co.uk](http://www.akw-ltd.co.uk)

**Contour Showers Ltd**

Tel: 01606 592586

[www.contour-showers.co.uk](http://www.contour-showers.co.uk)

**Chiltern Invadex**

Tel: 01869 365500

[www.chilterninvadex.co.uk](http://www.chilterninvadex.co.uk)

**Impey UK Ltd**

Tel: 01460 256080

[www.impey-uk.com](http://www.impey-uk.com)

**ESL Healthcare**

Tel: 01323 465800

[www.eslhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.eslhealthcare.co.uk)

**SAFETY**

Ensure that any shower facility that you install, complies with current British Safety Standards. If unsure, contact:

British Standards Institution, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 4AL

Tel: 020 8996 7001 [www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)

We would advise that all building, plumbing and electrical works are carried out by a suitably qualified tradesperson and that any necessary statutory approvals are obtained. For further information contact your home improvement agency. Contact details at the end of this information sheet.

## **BEFORE INSTALLING**

We would recommend that you obtain at least two quotations in writing before proceeding.

The company addresses on this list are for your information. This is not exhaustive. The County Council does not recommend any company and accepts no responsibility for the quality of service from any of the manufacturers.

## **VAT EXEMPTION**

Disabled Persons are eligible for VAT relief on certain specialised goods. A form can be obtained from:

HM Revenue and Customs  
VAT Disabled and Elderly Reliefs Correspondence S0708  
PO Box 205,  
Bootle  
L69 9AZ

Tel: 0300 123 1073.

Web: [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk) or [www.gov.uk/government/vat-reliefs-for-charities-disabled-and-older-people](http://www.gov.uk/government/vat-reliefs-for-charities-disabled-and-older-people)

## **WHERE TO GO FOR ADVICE**

If you would like advice on suppliers, choice of showers or general advice on disability issues.

### **1. Disabled Living Foundation (DLF)**

DLF is a national charity providing impartial advice, information and training on independent living including the factsheet '*Choosing equipment for showering – Level or easy access trays*'.

Disabled Living Foundation,  
Unit 1, 34 Chatfield Road,  
Wandsworth,  
London  
SW11 3SE

[www.dlf.org.uk](http://www.dlf.org.uk)

Email: [info@dlf.org.uk](mailto:info@dlf.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7289 6111, 9am - 5pm, Mon-Fri

Helpline: 0300 999 0004

The DLF Information Service can give information about Disabled Living Centres in other parts of the country.

## **2. Occupational Therapist**

You can request an assessment of your needs from your local Social and Community Services team. There may be a waiting list for an assessment. In some cases they may be able to help you to access funding for the installation of an accessible shower. Please contact the Social and Health Care Team for further advice/information **before** you start any adaptation work, as funding is **not** available retrospectively:

Social and Health Care Team  
PO Box 780  
Oxford, OX1 9GX  
Telephone: 0845 050 7666

You can also arrange for an Occupational Therapist in private practice to carry out an assessment of your needs and advise you with regards to the installation of an accessible shower. There will be a charge for this assessment and they are not normally able to assist you with funding. For names of Occupational Therapists in private practice in your area please contact The Royal College of Occupational Therapists on 020 7357 6480 or [www.rcot.co.uk](http://www.rcot.co.uk).

## **3. House Adaptation Advisory Service**

UK-wide register of health care professionals, architects, surveyors and other related professionals who have a demonstrable knowledge of the housing needs of disabled and older people. Further information Tel: 020 7822 8232 or [www.cae.org.uk](http://www.cae.org.uk)

## **4. Ricability**

Independent research charity. Produce consumer reports providing practical information for older and disabled people on a range of topics. Web based report "*Difficulty Getting and out of the Bath?*" contains information on accessible showers and accessories. Available from [www.ricability.org.uk](http://www.ricability.org.uk).  
Telephone: 020 7427 2460

## **5. Home Improvement Agency**

Provides guidance and assistance to carry out repairs, improvements or adaptations that are necessary to help you to continue living in your own home. They may charge a fee for their services. You should contact your local office for further information. See contact details at the end of this information sheet.

<p><b>West Oxfordshire District Council</b>  West Home Improvement Agency  Elmfield  New Yatt Road  Witney  OX28 1PB  Telephone: 01993 861000  <a href="http://www.westoxon.gov.uk">www.westoxon.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Cherwell District Council</b>  Cherwell Home Improvement Agency  Bodicote House  Bodicote  Banbury  OX15 4AA  Telephone: 01295 221757  <a href="http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk">www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Vale of White Horse District Council</b>  Mears Home Improvement  Building 166 Harwell Campus  Didcot  Oxon  OX11 0QQ  Telephone: 0845 266 8941  <a href="https://www2.mearsgroup.co.uk/social-housing/home-improvement/">https://www2.mearsgroup.co.uk/social-housing/home-improvement/</a></p>	<p><b>South Oxfordshire District Council</b>  Mears Home Improvement  Building 166 Harwell Campus  Didcot  Oxon  OX11 0QQ  Telephone: 0845 266 8941  <a href="https://www2.mearsgroup.co.uk/social-housing/home-improvement/">https://www2.mearsgroup.co.uk/social-housing/home-improvement/</a></p>
<p><b>Oxford City Council</b>  City Home Improvement Agency  St. Aldates Chambers  109 St. Aldates  Oxford  OX1 1DS  Telephone: 01865 252788  <a href="https://www.oxford.gov.uk/homeimprovement">https://www.oxford.gov.uk/homeimprovement</a></p>	

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