

BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations Home Assessments

The BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations (BC RAHA) provides rebates to offset the cost of making adaptations that will increase accessibility and safety in your home. Some adaptations require an assessment to be completed by either an Occupational Therapist (OT) or a Physical Therapist (PT).

For a complete list of adaptations where an assessment is required, please see the BC RAHA Maximum Rebate Schedule.

What is a home assessment, and why do I need one?

A home assessment by a health care professional can help identify specialized equipment, design features and methods to enhance safety and independence while performing activities of daily living in your home. An assessment will carefully consider the layout and features of your home together with information about your permanent disability or diminished ability.

An assessment will identify areas that could benefit from modifications to allow you to continue to function safely in your home for as long as possible. Some recommendations may be as simple as rearranging furniture to clear walking paths. In fact, getting started by removing items from the home to reduce fall risks and improve mobility in the space can be accomplished without any cost at all.

Other recommendations may require more effort and require purchases and potentially hiring a contractor to make adaptations to your home. This is where BC RAHA can help. The home assessment and its findings can be used to assist with planning and help guide decisions and discussions to ensure that any adaptations made to your home will meet your specific needs.

***Please note,** if you pay for a private assessment, BC RAHA will provide a rebate of up to \$250 for an assessment regardless of whether you qualify for, or decide to proceed with, adaptations.*

Find an Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist

Not all BC RAHA rebates require an assessment. Please refer to the BC RAHA Maximum Rebate Schedule to determine if an assessment is required for the adaptations you are considering.

If you already have an OT or a PT, ask them if they can complete the assessment or if they are able to make a recommendation or referral to a health professional who completes home assessments.

If you do not have an OT or PT, you can ask for recommendations or referrals from:

- Your family doctor or specialist
- Your home health case manager if currently receiving Home Care Services from the Health Authority
- If you are currently in the hospital awaiting discharge, ask to speak with the hospital social worker
- Your family or friends

Search for an OT or PT online.

- The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists: <https://www.caot.ca/site/findot>

- The Physiotherapy Association of British Columbia: <https://bcphysio.org/find-a-physio> (use the advanced search to find physical therapists that have mobile clinics).

You can also contact the home and community care unit of your local health authority.

- Interior Health: <http://www.interiorhealth.ca> or call 250-469-7070
- Northern Health: <http://www.northernhealth.ca> or call 1-866-565-2999
- Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca> or call 1-866-884-0888
- Vancouver Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca> or call 1-877-370-8699

Does the assessment need to be completed by an OT or PT?

Assessments completed by other health care professionals can be considered. They must be

- familiar with the specific permanent disability or diminished ability; and
- have witnessed the homeowner or tenant functioning in the home.

Does the assessment need to be in person?

Due to the community spread of COVID-19, we are relying on health care professionals to follow best practices to prevent further transmission of the illness. This can include considering alternate processes, including conducting a virtual assessment using technology in place of an in person visit. It is up to the health care professional to determine if they are able to gather the necessary information needed in order to meet professional obligations in making an informed assessment and recommendations.

Regardless of if the assessment is conducted in person or virtually, a written assessment must be submitted with the BC RAHA application. The BC RAHA Application Form includes a simple 2-page assessment form.

Does the written assessment need to be on the BC RAHA form?

BC Housing will consider written assessments that are not on the BC RAHA form. The assessment must include the following:

- Name of client requiring adaptations
- Address where adaptations are being requested.
- Has the assessor observed the client(s) functioning in the home?
- Does the client(s) use any mobility equipment in the home? If yes, describe.
- Description of the client(s) specific permanent disability or loss of ability and how this impacts their ability to perform basic activities of daily living in the home.
- Has the condition lasted at least 12 months or is reasonably expected to last at least 12 months?
- List of all BC RAHA eligible adaptations that the assessor is recommending that will improve the client's ability to perform basic activities of daily living in their home. For more information please see the BC RAHA application form, or Rebate Schedule available online at www.bchousing.org/BC-RAHA
- Was there a fee charged to complete assessment? Yes/No. If yes, \$ amount
- Assessors Name and Professional Designation
- Assessors Registration number
- Assessors Phone number
- Assessors signature

For more information on the BC RAHA program, full eligibility requirements, the rebate schedule, or to download an application form, visit www.bchousing.org/BC-RAHA. If you would like to have an application sent to you in the mail, call our office at 604-433-2218, or 1-800-257-7756.