

Everything you need to know about Home Adaptations

What are home adaptations?

Home adaptations relate to the changes you can make to your home to improve independence and to make life easier and safer to move around and do everyday tasks. Local authorities offer assessments for your home and recommendations about the changes that might help; these local council assessments are free.

How can adaptations help you live at home?

Making changes to your home can make a real difference in helping you to stay there for longer, living as independently as possible with peace of mind and dignity. Even minor adaptations can make a big difference. There are a wide range of home adaptations on the market to help you continue living safely at home. Advice and support is available to help you get the right ones for you along with information regarding funding to help with costs.

Should you convert your garage into a bathroom?

Converting your garage into a bathroom or kitchen is possible but can prove considerably more costly when compared to converting it into an additional bedroom or living room.

How much does it cost to convert the garage into a bathroom?

If you want to convert a garage into a bathroom or kitchen, you will need to factor in the cost of utilities such as water, gas and electricity.

A basic conversion will cost in the region of £10-15k, for higher specifications the cost might be £20-25k.

Garage conversions add value to a home if you create space for other rooms too, such as additional bedrooms or living spaces.

www.gbhereford.co.uk | 01432 272 188

What are the different types of garage conversion rooms?

There aren't many restrictions on the types of room you can convert a garage into, examples include living rooms, utility rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, gyms, home offices, adapted bathrooms and even man caves or home cinemas.

Can you put a bathroom in a detached garage?

Yes, however if drainage is a problem then you might have to consider an macerator toilet. Careful thought needs to be given to the space you have available as it might affect what you can have inside your bathroom such as a shower, bathtub, toilet and sink. Consideration should also be given to the transition between hot to cold environments and the possibility of a link between the two should also be considered.

Do garage conversions require planning permissions?

It is always advisable to check with your local authority, only around 10% of garage conversions will require full planning permission with the rest falling under permitted development rights. These rights ensure that internal work that doesn't enlarge existing structures can progress directly to the building regulations stage.



What do you need to know about door widening?

The process generally involves removing a small section of drywall in order to inspect the wall's interior and identify the position of wiring and other features that need to be avoided.

Light switches and electrical outlets might also need to be relocated to allow for the widening process.

It also needs to be established if the wall is load or non-load bearing remembering that internal walls can also be load bearing, a lintel would need to be installed if so.

How long does it take to widen a door?

At GB Electrical & Building Services, we would aim to complete this in 1-2 days but it can depend on factors such as how the doorway is built, stud work and whether the wall is load bearing.

How wide is the door for wheelchair access?

The recommended door width for wheelchair access is at least 800mm. Most wheelchairs measure 24-27 inches from wheel to wheel. This width allows for a wheelchair to move freely through a door.

What are disabled access door systems?

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was introduced to ensure that anyone with a disability can gain easy access to any public premises. Disabled door access systems form an important part of compliance.

Disabled access door systems are an automatic door system consisting of a sliding or a swinging door. Typical features include automatic door openers or push button/fob operation.

Who pays for the Disabled Facilities Grant?

If you need large scale changes to your home to make it accessible you might be eligible for the Disabled Facilities Grant, also referred to as a DFG grant.

The DFG grant is paid by your local authority or, in the case of Northern Ireland, The Local Housing Executive.

What are grab rails?

Grab rails are a home adaptation designed to safely offer help with mobility when doing a variety of tasks around your home including the bathroom.

They are a practical and durable solution that can make a big difference to the lives of elderly or disabled users, giving them the confidence to do things they might otherwise find difficult.

Where do you find elderly grab rails?

At GB Electrical & Building Services we can provide a range of grab rails. We install several types and the AKW series 1400 is one of our most popular grab rails with its plastic, fluted covering.

We can also fit any grab rails supplied such as specialist rails for stairs. It is worth noting that we always check the strength of the walls where rails are to be fitted and will strengthen them with timber battens if needed.

Can you install hand rails on the stairs?

Yes, if the existing stair rail is loose in any way or not strong enough to give you confidence then it is definitely time to replace it.

The same goes for any outdoor rails, fixtures or steps. Handrails on stairs can have a big impact towards keeping people safe, especially on multi-level decks.

Are handrails safe?

If they are fitted professionally, then yes. Handrails come in a wide variety of different shapes, sizes and finishes. No matter which you need or where in your home you need to install them, GB Electrical & Building Services can help.

How far from the wall should the handrail be?

If you have a single railing on a staircase then the inside (stair side) edge must be 31.5 inches away from the wall on the opposite side. You must measure this distance from the side of the handrail closest to the wall, extending the line to the opposite wall.

What is the standard handrail height for stairs?

To meet building standard requirements, the stair railing should be mounted so that the handrail is positioned 34-38 inches above the front edge of the stair nosings (the horizontal protruding edge of the stair where foot traffic is heaviest.)

What is non slip flooring?

Typically non slip flooring is around two meters wide and can be purchased as a complete roll or cut from the roll itself. The minimum sized cut is 2x2m square. At GB Electrical & Building Services we install Altro flooring which is 2mm thick, offering excellent wear characteristics suitable for barefoot or shoe traffic.

What type of flooring should I use in a wet room?

What type of flooring should I use in a wet room? Wet room areas such as showers and washrooms require flooring that features a textured surface and is coved up to the walls. Any seams or joints are thermo welded to completely seal the floor.

GB Electrical & Building Services recommend and fit Altro flooring.

GB Electrical & Building Services Ltd

Unit 36, Three Elms Trading Estate
Hereford HR4 9PU
info@gbhereford.co.uk

www.gbhereford.co.uk | 01432 272 188

