

List of common home improvement requests

On the following pages we have listed some of the more common requests we get for improvements and alterations and detailed whether they are things we might give permission for or not.

We might refuse permission if the alteration will:

- Cost us money to maintain now or in the future
- Reduce the value of the property
- Make the property less safe
- Alter the structure or layout of the property

Inspections and certificates

If you request permission for a change we may:

1. Carry out an inspection before the work begins
2. Carry out another inspection after the work is complete
3. Ask for copies of any relevant certificates (such as a Part P certificate for electrical changes) to show that the work has been carried out to the correct standards

Permission from other organisations

If the alteration will change the external appearance of your home eg painting the outside walls, new fencing, installing driveways etc, then you may need to also involve and get permission for the change from your local authority or other heritage organisations. We can tell you which.

Kitchens and bathrooms

Installing a shower	Yes, you can request permission for this
Removing a wet room (also called a level access shower)	Yes, you can request permission for this
Fitting a new kitchen or bathroom	Yes, you can request permission for this
Remove a kitchen cupboard to fit an appliance such as a washing machine	Yes, you can request permission for this
Change kitchen cupboard doors	Yes, you can request permission for this
Installation of a water meter	Yes, you can request permission for this
Removing or replacing any gas pipework	No, we won't give permission for this
Remove or replace any pipes (apart from gas pipes) eg toilet, sink drainage, external guttering	Yes, you can request permission for this
Fit handrails inside or outside	Yes, you can request permission for this

Heating and gas

Remove or replace radiators	Yes, you can request permission for this
Installation of wood/log burning stoves and gas fires	No, we won't give permission for this
Removing or replacing any gas pipework	No, we won't give permission for this

Electrics

Fitting new light switches, light fittings and addition power sockets	Yes, you can request permission for this
Installing an EV (electric vehicle) charging point	Yes, you can request permission for this
Installing an outside charging point for a mobility scooter	Yes, you can request permission for this

Doors and windows

Fitting window restrictors or window locks	No, we won't give permission for this
Fitting new window frames	No, we won't give permission for this
Fitting new front or back doors	No, we won't give permission for this
Painting UPVC front and rear doors	No, we won't give permission for this
Painting front doors which are fire doors (usually in blocks of flats)	No, we won't give permission for this
Painting composite front and rear doors (these are plastic doors with woodgrain effect)	Yes, you can request permission for this
Painting wooden front and rear doors (other than in blocks of flats)	Yes, you can request permission for this
Install a cat flap	Yes, you can request permission for this

Extensions

Conservatory	Yes, you can request permission for this
Extending the property	No, we won't give permission for this

Walls, floors and stairs

Removing internal walls	No, we won't give permission for this
Fitting or removing staircases, bannisters and bannister rails	No, we won't give permission for this
Installing laminate flooring in flats above ground floor	No, we won't give permission for this
Installing laminate flooring in ground floor flats and houses	Yes, you can request permission for this
Stair lift	Yes, you can request permission for this

Gardens, fences and sheds

Sheds and summer houses	Yes, you can request permission for this Please note that it will depend on the size (dimensions) of the shed or structure being requested
Fencing	Yes, you can request permission for this Rear fences can be no more than 1,800mm (6ft) high Front fences must be no more than 900mm (3ft) high
Converting out buildings into habitable rooms such as offices	No, we won't give permission for this
Constructing or installing ponds, hot tubs, saunas and swimming pools	No, we won't give permission for this

Outside walls, roofs and guttering

Fixing aerials, satellite dishes or other items to outside walls or chimneys (houses only)	Yes, you can request permission for this. Please note any external fixing is subject to building type, age and whether there is cladding on the outside of the building
Fixing aerials, satellite dishes or other items to blocks of flats	No, we won't give permission for this
Removing any outside walls	No, we won't give permission for this
Painting and decorating outside walls of the property that are bare brick or have external insulation applied	No, we won't give permission for this
Painting and decorating outside walls that are rendered and don't have external insulation	Yes, you can request permission for this Please note that we will need to agree the colour
Loft conversions	No, we won't give permission for this
Fitting solar panels (also known as photovoltaic cells)	No, we won't give permission for this
Adding cladding to external walls	No, we won't give permission for this

Paths, paving and driveways

Decking, patios and paving	Yes, you can request permission for this
Driveways	Yes, you can request permission for this Please note we will only allow 50% of the front garden area to be converted into a driveway. We do not permit driveways where there is no dropped kerb. You can contact your local council or the highways agency to request a dropped kerb.