

BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations (BC RAHA) Home Assessments

The BC Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations (BC RAHA) gives rebates to help with the cost of making home adaptations to make your home more accessible and safer. Some adaptations need a completed assessment from either an Occupational Therapist (OT) or a Physical Therapist (PT).

For a complete list of adaptations that need an assessment, 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 special equipment, design features and ways to make your home safer and more accessible. An in-home assessment carefully considers the layout and features of your home with information about your disability or ability loss.

An assessment identifies areas that could benefit from changes that allow you to continue living safely in your home as long as possible. Some recommendations may be simple like moving furniture to clear walking paths.

Reducing your fall risk is a good start. By removing items that block your walking paths, you can improve mobility in your home without any extra cost.

Other recommendations may need more effort. You may have to buy equipment or hire a contractor to make home adaptations. This is where BC RAHA helps. The home assessment findings can be used to assist with planning and help guide decisions and discussions. This makes sure any adaptations made to your home will meet your needs.

***Please note,** if you pay for a private assessment, BC RAHA will provide you with a rebate of up to \$250. Even if you do not qualify for the program or do not have any adaptations done.*

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 find out if an assessment is required for the adaptations you are considering.

If you already have an OT or a PT, ask if they can complete the assessment or if they can recommend or refer a health professional to complete the home assessment.

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 getting Home Care Services from the Health Authority
- If you are in the hospital waiting for 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> (TIP: 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.

- Fraser Health: <http://www.fraserhealth.ca> or call 1-855-412-2121
- 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:

- Understand the specific permanent disability or ability loss
- Seen the homeowner or tenant in daily tasks at 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 can gather the information needed to meet professional obligations to make an informed assessment and recommendations.

Regardless of how an 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.
- Proof that 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, provide \$ amount
- Assessor's Name and Professional Designation
- Assessor's Registration number
- Assessor's Phone number
- Assessor's signature

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