

Your guide

to moving to smaller homes

This leaflet tells you about the help L&Q gives to residents wanting to move to a smaller home.

Why is L&Q encouraging residents to move to smaller homes?

L&Q introduced the Under Occupation scheme to provide help and assistance to residents who would like to move to smaller properties. This allows us to make best use of our housing stock by freeing up large-sized housing for homeless families and overcrowded households. Put simply, we will be able to provide good quality homes to more people.

Who can apply for this scheme?

Any resident can apply if they are currently living in an L&Q home and are willing to move to one with fewer bedrooms through our transfer scheme.

Why move to a smaller home?

You may want to consider moving if:

- You are finding your home becoming too costly to run and difficult to manage
- The number of people in the household has reduced (e.g. children have grown up and left home), or
- You may want to move to a different location to be nearer family or work

What help will I get with moving?

If you move to a home with fewer bedrooms, we will give you:

- £300 for accepting a home with one less bedroom
- A further £400 for each additional bedroom you give up
- Removal costs of up to £500
- Help with redecoration, redirecting post and reconnecting utilities and appliances such as cookers and washing machines.

How do I apply?

We will ask you to register on our transfer list by completing a transfer application form, see our leaflet Applying for a Transfer.

The information you provide on the form will help us assess why you want to move, the type of home you want and where you want to move to. To ensure a quicker move we recommend that you discuss your choice of areas with your local L&Q office. Our staff will be able to tell you where we have the most homes to suit you.

You may want to move outside of London or to an area where L&Q do not have homes. If so, we will help you to contact housing associations in these areas.

Will my transfer application be prioritised?

Yes. If you want to move to a home with fewer bedrooms, your application will be dealt with as a priority. We do this because the home you give up is urgently needed for a larger family.

How will an offer be made?

We will match your application against suitable homes. If there is a match we will contact you to tell you all about it, the arrangements for viewing and the date by which you must let us know if you are interested. If other priority applicants want a similar home we will write to them at the same time and give them the same response date as you.

What if two priority residents show an interest?

If you are the only priority applicant to register an interest we will make an offer to you. However, if other priority applicants register an interest we will make an offer to the applicant who has been on the transfer list the longest.

What happens if I do not accept the offer?

If you do not want to accept the home we will continue to try to find another suitable home for you to consider and write to you again.

Can I move if I have rent arrears?

Yes, but we will deduct any arrears you owe from the money you may be entitled to.

Contact us

L&Q Direct
PO Box 194
Sidcup
Kent
DA15 0AJ

Phone

0800 015 6536

E-mail

LQdirect@lqgroup.org.uk

L&Q is an exempt charity