

Furnishing a property

Various organization through the country will offer support and help to those who require help to furnish a property.

If you are moving into a new home whether you were homeless or moving into your first home there are organizations that will assist, the various charitable organizations will either supply the furniture or point you in the right direction.

Funding;

If you are in receipt of Jobseekers allowance (or low income i.e. income support) and are moving **house** you may apply for funding or assistance.

You can apply for a community care grant after you have been released from prison, by filling in the crisis and community care grant form.

If you qualify for the grant you **do not** need to repay this **if you qualify**.

Places where you may be able to purchase affordable furniture with your limited funds.

British Heart foundation charity shop, (all household goods, furnishings and electrical)

Oxfam, (household furnishings and clothing)

Accord Hospice, (a full range of furniture)

Destiny Charity Superstore, (a full range of furniture)

There will be more charities within your area that are willing to help you with your new home, you'll be able to find them in the local paper

Frost precautions

Burst pipes can cause serious damage to your home and are normally caused by water in the pipe freezing. When water freezes it expands, and that is what causes fractures to the

Frozen pipes

To avoid frozen pipes you should:

- check the severe weather reports
- keep your home reasonably warm day and night
- never leave a tap dripping
- reduce draughts wherever possible
- leave your loft hatch open a little in really cold weather

If you leave your home empty for a few days during the winter it is important that you:

- leave your central heating on at the frost setting
- leave a key with someone you trust who can keep an eye on the house

If you get frozen pipes:

- thaw the pipes by applying gentle heat - a hairdryer or hot water bottle but **do not use a naked flame**
- raise the temperature in your house but **do not** switch on the immersion or central heating
- when the water begins to run at all taps and the WC cistern, it is safe to use the immersion or central heating

Burst pipes

If you get burst pipes:

Turn off the water at the main stopcock immediately - this can save a lot of time, damage and expense. **The main stopcock is usually found under the sink.** If the Council has recently fitted a new kitchen you will have a Sure Stop valve that, once activated, will shut off the water supply. **Check now where your stopcock is located.**

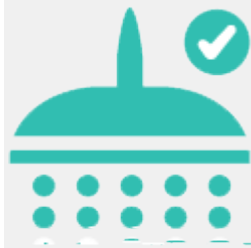
- turn on all taps and flush the WC
- switch off the electricity supply if water comes into contact with fittings or wiring
- attempt to contain the leak in a bowl or other container
- contact the Council's Repair Service
- warn any neighbours who may be affected

Energy Efficiency

Energy saving tips

Cut Down

Cut down open/close

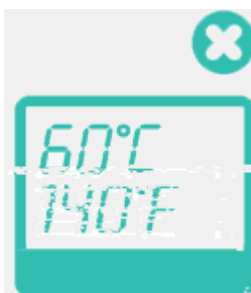


Lights: Could you get into the habit of turning lights off when you leave a room? A family could save between £50 and £90 a year just by remembering to turn things off, if they don't already do this. (Source: Energy Savings Trust, October 2013).

Showers: How about replacing a soak in the bath with a shower once a week? You'll be surprised how much energy you could save this way.

Washing machines: Check out your washing machine's settings, see if there's a 'half load' option for small amounts of clothes. With modern washing powders, you can usually choose a lower temperature on your washing machine too

Turn Down



Water temperature: Check the thermostat on your boiler, see what the temperature settings are for hot water and think about turning it down just a couple of degrees. That will make a difference to the amount of energy you're using.

Heating: Turn down your general thermostat settings too: 21°C should be plenty. You may be used to having your house much warmer than this, so if your thermostat's set at 24 or 25°C, turn it down one degree at a time over a couple of weeks. And just remember: every

degree that you turn it down could save you around £65 a year on your heating bill! (Source: Energy Saving Trust, October 2013).

Radiators: Switch off radiators in the rooms you're not using regularly and keep internal doors shut. Otherwise, draughts and poorly insulated windows will mean you're burning energy un-necessarily.

Shut Down

[Shut down open/close](#)

Electrical goods: When you leave mobile phones, laptops and iPod chargers on standby, they could still be using energy. Switching them off and unplugging them once they're fully charged is a great way to be more energy efficient. And remember – if your charger has an LED to show it's in use, it's still using energy until you switch it off at the wall.

Appliances: Do you use a dishwasher? Wait until it's fully loaded before starting it, and remember that – if you run it overnight – it'll be using energy until you switch it off in the morning. Why not invest in a timer plug and run it automatically for a shorter period of time instead?

[What else can you do to make a difference? open/close](#)

Climate control? It's easy

Curtains: Closed curtains prevent warm air escaping from the windows at night, and that helps keep your house warmer for longer.

If you already have a hot water tank jacket, check it's the recommended thickness of 75mm

If not, a new one is easy to fit yourself - the materials will only cost you around £25 and you could save around £60 a year!

With those savings, it could pay for itself in just a few months. (Source: Energy Savings Trust, October 2013).

Track how much energy you're using

Energy monitors help you track how much energy you're using

They also pinpoint wasteful, inefficient appliances

A monitor will cost somewhere around £50 to £100, but if you spot ways to save energy quickly, this could pay for itself within a year

Energy monitors can be great to help educate your family on energy saving habits, keeping your bills down.

Buy draught excluders

Draught excluders are great for keeping out the chilly draughts that sneak in around your windows and doors

Thermal or heavy curtains help during the winter, as do letter box covers and key hole covers – keeping the cold chills out and the warm air in.

Use energy efficient light bulbs

A new, energy-efficient light bulb uses much less electricity than an old-fashioned

Ensure any airways are kept clear to allow the air to space through (this is important for hair dryers, laptops as they can over heat)

Has it changed in appearance?

Is it damaged that could cause an injury?

Are there burn marks or is there a smell when you use it?

If you live in a council house, Renfrewshire Council has a Housing Repairs Policy that outlines what is expected of you, what you are responsible for and the help they give if/when you need a repair:

Your responsibilities:

repairing any minor fixtures and fittings such as curtain rails, light bulbs and plugs

small repairs like replacing keys and fitting extra locks

maintaining internal decoration

maintaining / replacing floor coverings supplied in kitchens and bathrooms

Recycling

Recycling centres within Renfrewshire

(Other regions will have their disposal site and should be check with the local authority for locations)

Recycling Centre Locations

Erskine: Barrhill Road, Erskine PA8 6BU

Johnstone: Miller 11b) 24 fl1b 2 Cent4 fl1b 2 J) 2hn 64 (-8 8 6BU) 8 (5 8H (P6ody MCD 10 BDC C2 1

Household Waste Collection Service

Waste Collection Service for Households

Residents can recycle the following materials:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles
- metal tins and cans
- Paper and cardboard
- Textiles and
- Food waste

Households are supplied with a set of new containers for different types of recyclable materials. There are two clearly marked black boxes, one for paper and cardboard; the other for glass, metal and plastic bottles; plus a third black box which can be used for overflow of these materials. These will be collected every two weeks.

Each household will also receive a new food waste recycling service consisting of a small kitchen food caddy and liners for using inside the home and a bigger external food caddy, which will be collected weekly.

The current wheeled bin or council refuse sack collection service will still be use1 (o)-2 (n)8o7DC 1o4 (k)8w

Refuse Disposal

Household Waste Collection

Household waste in wheeled bins and Council refuse sacks is collected weekly and processed for recovery

Please also note that you must not put hazardous items such as concrete-bonded asbestos, engine oil or vehicle batteries in your bins or sacks because they need special disposal. These types of items are accepted at Centres. If you have additional waste which can't be put out for collection in your wheeled bin or standard allowance of Council refuse sacks then there are a number of options:

Council Refuse Sacks

specialist services. Our target time for these repairs is within 28 days. An example of this kind of repair is the replacement of external doors as they are made to measure.

Your Right to Repair

What is right to repair?

From 30th September 2002, under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, Scottish Secure Tenants

** Working days from day after date of notification of qualifying repair or inspection.