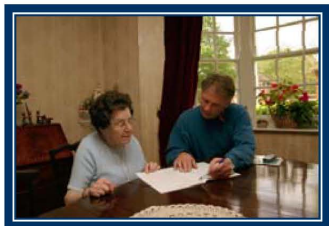


**ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT**



[www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)



# **ESSENTIAL REPAIR GRANTS**

**HOME REPAIRS  
AND IMPROVEMENT GRANTS  
FOR OWNER OCCUPIERS  
IN OXFORD**



# WHAT IS AN ESSENTIAL REPAIR GRANT (ERG)?

An Essential Repair Grant (ERG) is a discretionary means tested grant, targeted and prioritised, to help owner-occupiers on low-income carry out essential repairs to their homes. The strategy is aimed at protecting the wellbeing of residents, helping applicants to remain in their own homes, ensuring minimum health & safety standards, and ensuring that fuel poverty, health, and environmental issues are properly addressed.

Where repair work is necessary, an ERG can help with the costs of providing these repairs, helping to make it easier for the owner-occupier continue to enjoy living in their homes.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR AN ERG?

Essential Repair Grants are available to residential owner-occupiers in Oxford who are:

- Aged over 18 years old and...
- Have been in residence for three years or more
- In receipt of a low income, or in receipt of a means tested benefit such as Income Support, Pension Credit, or Working Tax Credit

Other conditions may be applicable; you should contact Oxford City Council for further information and advice.

## ESSENTIAL REPAIR GRANTS ARE:

- Based on an inspection of the property by the Council's Surveyor
- Subject to a schedule of works approved or produced by the City Council
- Calculated from a means test assessment of your income
- Approved for up to 100% of the cost of works, and up to a maximum value of £5000

# GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE TO HOME OWNERS FOR ESSENTIAL REPAIRS INCLUDING:

- ❑ Upgrading unsafe electrical wiring
- ❑ Renewing defective or leaking roof and guttering
- ❑ Damp proofing and repointing external walls
- ❑ Internal repairs
- ❑ Replacing broken and rotted windows with upvc double glazing
- ❑ Loft and cavity wall insulation
- ❑ Boiler replacement or repairs
- ❑ Providing kitchen & bathroom facilities
- ❑ Plumbing Repairs
- ❑ Where security and Health & Safety are at risk

## HOW WILL THE CITY COUNCIL HELP?

Unless you have experience in building related works, it can be a difficult to assess building defects, organise repair works, and to engage competent and capable contractors. So as to help with the process, the council can assist you in the following ways:

- ❑ Undertaking property surveys to identify defects
- ❑ Providing guidance and advice on repairs required
- ❑ Preparing detailed specifications and schedule of works
- ❑ Obtaining quotes from competent and reputable contractors and specialists
- ❑ Monitoring the repair works whilst in progress
- ❑ Payment for grant-aided works on satisfactory completion



## OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU INCLUDES:

Improving the condition of all homes in the city up to the “Decent Standard”.

Improving the energy efficiency of all dwellings across all tenure by 30% by 2010

Improving living conditions by approving all valid applications made under the grant scheme that satisfy the requirements.

Overseeing all grant-aided works to ensure, compliance with the specifications, high quality of work, and keeping to time schedules.

Ensuring that on satisfactory completion of grant-aided work, all invoices will be paid, directly to the contractors.

[www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)



## CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

“My house needed a lot of work but I didn't know where to go to get help and called the Council.

“My house got a new roof, new windows and doors and a new handrail on the stairs.

“I'd like to thank Oxford City Council for all the help they've given me and my wife, and I'd recommend this service to anyone else who is struggling to maintain their home.”

(Source: YOUR OXFORD – Winter 2008)

For further information contact:

Environmental Development  
Oxford City Council  
10 St Ebbe's St, Oxford.

T: 01865 252887

F: 01865 252344

E: [environment@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:environment@oxford.gov.uk)

For latest information, visit [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)

