



WHAT'S NEW?

in products for  
easier and  
safer living

ricability

# WHAT'S NEW? in products for easier

**T**here are thousands of products to help you day to day in your home if you have difficulty getting around or doing things. Many have been available for years - things like tap turners, jar openers and bath seats. Once called aids, they are more often known as easier living products and most recently as assistive technology.

Among these there are products using newer technology - electronic and sophisticated products rather than simple electric and mechanical ones. This guide gives an overview of the wide range of types available. They may help you to live independently in your own home for longer.

First there are the views of some people who have benefited from newer products - here and later in the booklet. Most of the pages (4 to 16) are taken up with brief information and photographs of the types of products available now - to control your home, keep safe and secure and to communicate more easily. After that page 17 takes a look to the future - even more sophisticated kit coming on to the market or being developed for use in a few years' time. Pages 18 to 21 tell you where and how to get both advice and products that might help you. Useful addresses and telephone numbers are listed at the end.



“Now we  
can both get a  
good night's  
sleep”



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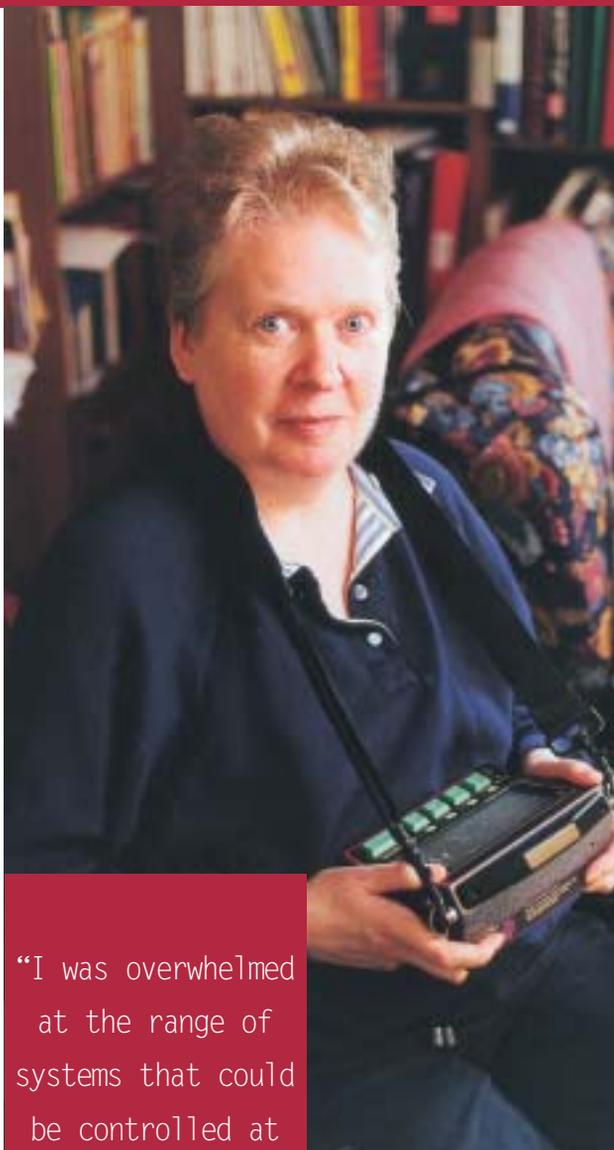
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So say Bill and Florence of their bed monitor. Florence has a lot of pain through sciatica and some confusion. She gets good support locally, from her social services occupational therapist, and spends three days a week doing activities with friends at a day hospital. But Florence gets up during the night and tends to fall, so Bill was not sleeping well. This has all changed since a pressure plate was fitted beneath Florence's mattress. It sets off an alarm beside Bill. They also have an intercom on all day and night to pick up the alarm and Florence's calls wherever Bill is. He now sleeps more confidently and the rest of the family is happier too - all three children, seven grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

# THE PRODUCTS

**B**elow are brief details of many different types of helpful products. At the start of each main section, the more general products are listed. Then they are grouped with symbols - see the key opposite - to help you find the products that best match your needs.

The pictures are of particular models and are here to illustrate types so do not carry any recommendation. We cannot tell you about individual makes and models - there are simply too many for this booklet. More detailed information is given in catalogues from the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB), the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) and from the Disabled Living Foundation - see Help, advice and products (p18) and the back pages for contact details of these and other agencies.



“I was overwhelmed at the range of systems that could be controlled at the click of a switch”

At the moment Sue controls her lights, curtains, television, video and front door by clicking on an icon on a portable control box. It was the door system that first attracted her. If the door bell goes or she hears a strange noise outside, she switches on the TV and can see and hear who is there and talk to them. Another press and she opens the door. Unwanted callers get a shock when they hear her saying "This is the door speaking ...." and more. Sue has multiple sclerosis which is progressive, so she likes the flexibility of her environmental controls - functions can be added on as her condition changes.

## Key to symbols

These symbols are used in the following pages to direct you to products likely to interest you.

-  helpful to all
-  dexterity
-  visual impairment
-  hearing impairment
-  mobility
-  speech impairment

## Price guide

Prices vary between makes and models. The following give a rough idea of costs. Fitting is generally not included.

- £ up to £9.99
  - ££ £10 to £99.99
  - £££ £100 to £999.99
- and so on.

Products specifically designed or adapted for use by disabled people, and bought by or for them, are zero rated for VAT.

## Around the house

 Alternative switches For any kind of appliance. Many types, mostly large and needing light pressure only. ££

 Low vision cameras Hand held or on a stand. Magnify any text or object on to your TV screen. Black and white or colour. Mains operated. £££

 Low vision camera spectacles Portable camera magnifies and displays text, in colour, on to special LCD glasses. Battery operated. ££££

 Lap-top camera Magnifies documents, in colour, on to a built-in flat screen. Portable, mains or battery operated. £££



Door openers

 CCTV video magnifier Magnify any text or object on to computer-type monitor. Black and white or colour. Mains operated. £££-££££

 Document reader Portable unit that speaks the content of written documents. Mains or battery operated. Voice options, volume control and memory to save documents. ££££

 Talking diary/address book Also a telephone dialler, memo taker, calculator and alarm clock. You speak into the device and it speaks back the information. Hand-held, battery operated. Can be connected to a computer. ££££

 Talking labels Recordable labels using bar codes to identify eg foods, clothes, CDs. Battery operated. Hand held reader ££££. Packs of labels ££

  Door openers (left) Available for existing hinged and sliding doors. There are also new automatic doors. Radio remote control or mains operated with wired push button, foot or hand switch, pressure mat or movement sensor - so it opens automatically when you get nearby. Door can still be opened manually. £££

  Curtain openers for cord pulled curtains. Wall switch or infra red remote controls. Some offer timer control or light sensor for fully automatic opening and closing. Similar systems for blinds. £££

 Two-way intercom systems - to speak with someone in another room. Mains or battery operated. Voice activated available. ££



  Remote control of electrical appliances Systems such as X10 have a control box with buttons to select an appliance eg the TV and an instruction eg 'turn on'. The command is carried through the house through its standard electric wiring. At the appliance end there's an adapted plug, in a standard socket (see picture above), that responds to the command. Timers can be fitted to send commands at set times eg to turn on lights when the house is empty. Systems can operate few or many appliances. Starter kits from £££ plus ££ for each extra appliance control.

## In the kitchen

 Automatic taps Water flows when hands placed under the tap. £££



 Talking kitchen scales (above) Large LCD display and tactile keypad with on, off and kg/lb conversion buttons. Battery operated. ££

 Talking microwave oven Tactile keypad with talking clock, timer and guidance eg door is open. £££

 Adjustable surfaces Elevating systems for use with sink, hob, work surfaces to adjust them to height required. Remote or fixed control. Different switches to suit needs. £££

## In the bathroom

-  Automatic taps See In the kitchen above.
-  Autoflushing toilet No handle, no-touch electronic system - water flushes as you move away. £££
-  Washing and drying toilet Unit replaces or added to existing WC. Washes and dries user once WC used. ££££
-  Body drier Blows hot air to dry you. Some with heat controls, timed cut-out. Wall mounted. £££
-  Bath level indicator Bleeps to tell you when to turn the water off. Battery operated. £
-  Talking bathroom scales Speaks your weight in stones or kilos. Adjustable volume. Battery operated. ££

## Alerting devices

These are for people with a hearing impairment where something is usually indicated by sound only. They include simple items like plug-in lights that flash to show the telephone is ringing or there's someone at the door. Below are more sophisticated products - that



can alert you to more than one event for example. A good source for low and high tech products is the RNID catalogue.

-  Vibrating alarm Fits in a pocket or under a pillow. Vibrates to the sound of eg telephone, doorbell, alarm clock. Battery operated or with mains adapter. ££

-  Personal pager (above) You wear or carry a pager that is set off by a signal from a trigger unit near the alert source, indicating what it is eg telephone, doorbell, fire alarm. Alert by sound, light and/or vibration. Battery operated. Pager £££ plus ££ for each trigger.

-  Visual alerting systems Range of mains operated products that can be set to flash lamps or room lights differently when one of generally up to three items are activated eg

telephone, doorbell, baby alert or intercom. Some have an optional vibrating pad. Basic unit ££ and ££ for each sensor.

 Portable door chimes Keep the door chime near you to hear the doorbell. Some have a flashing light alert too. ££

## Environmental control systems

These help people with severe physical impairments to control a large number of items and appliances in their home from one control. It has switches that are used to choose an action - such as turning on the TV, opening the window,

locking the door, pulling the curtains, answering the telephone and adjusting an electric bed. These appliances are fitted with activating devices that are triggered by the control box selection. There are many different switches - ones that can be operated by hand, foot, head, arm, chin, voice or by blowing or sucking. Control boxes can be fixed, for example to a wheelchair or bed, or hand-held. The systems are either wired or wireless (using infra red or radio). The most sophisticated systems give control of over 200 specific functions including control of video and sound systems, computer and communication aids. These are generally supplied by the NHS (see page 19).



Environmental control systems



## Safety

👁️ Automatic gas cooker switch-off Detects and alerts unlit gas with a light and sound warning. Some will shut off the gas and some alert a central monitoring service. £££

👁️ Electric cooker induction hob The heating zone stays cool while a special pan above it heats. £££

👁️ Gas alarm Detects leaking natural, LPG or bottled gas anywhere in the house. Audible alarm. Some will shut off the gas and some alert a central monitoring service. Wall mounted, mains operated. ££-£££

👁️ Carbon monoxide alarm Audible and visual alarm when CO detected at dangerous levels. Wall mounted or free standing. Mains or battery operated. Some show continuous digital display of level. ££

👁️ Scald warning devices for people with poor sensation. Dip into hot water and it changes colour. Indicators available for 47°C, 37°C or 34°C. £

👁️ Lever tap with temperature cut-off Lever movement is restricted to prevent flow of hottest water. £££

👁️ Thermostatic shower control Limits temperature to 38°C. Push a button for higher temperature. £££

👁️ Mains water control Electronic monitoring devices to alert leaks and overflows and cut off the water supply. Visual and/or audible warnings. Battery or mains with battery back-up. £££

👁️ Mains water switch Easy to reach switch to stop mains water flow - in place of a stiff stop valve. ££

👁️ Social/community alarm You wear and use a small radio trigger to call for help (left). It sets off a telephone call from a unit in the home to a helper or a central monitoring service, run by a local authority, registered social landlord or commercial firm. For more information go to [www.ricability.org.uk](http://www.ricability.org.uk). £££ to buy a home unit, £ a week for monitoring or a higher weekly charge to rent including monitoring.



Social/community alarm



Smoke alarm for hearing impaired

👁️ Additional alarms Available with some social alarms, to alert central monitoring service to a fall, smoke, intruder, low air temperature, carbon monoxide, inactivity, convulsive movement. Costs per sensor vary with type but mainly ££

👁️ Movement alerts to carers of vulnerable people. Different types of system. Alarm is set off either by a pressure mat, body-worn transmitter or electronic tag that triggers monitors eg at door. Audible or visual alerts. Wired or wireless systems. ££-£££. Some connect to a computer to monitor and record movements. ££-££££

👁️ Health monitor and alarm Body-worn transmitter monitors health patterns eg temperature, pulse and alerts central service of significant variations. Can be linked to a social alarm. £££ to buy, ££ a week to rent including monitoring.

👁️ Smoke alarm system for hearing impaired people (left). A control panel that includes a strobe light, a pillow vibrator and a number of smoke detectors. ££-£££

## Security

👁️ Key safe Keys held in a strong container, fixed to the door or nearby. Known or emergency callers tap in a code on keypad to open it. ££

👁️ Key bypass A keypad by the door lock. Known or emergency callers tap in a code to open the door. £££

👁️ Key fob Touch a screen with a special key fob or card to open the door. ££

👁️ Door lock release Remote control activates electric lock release, from inside or outside the house. Other people can still use a key to the door. £££

👁️ Door entry intercom Speak to the visitor at your front door then press a button to let them in. With or without video. Voice activated systems also available - more expensive. ££-£££

## Computers

 Mouse alternatives for people with limited manual dexterity and for people with learning disabilities. They include touchscreen, joystick, trackball, headpointer, single or double switch and eye tracking. ££-££££

 Keyboards For single handed use - specially shaped and special key layout, push-on and push-off keys for functions, left and right hand models. £££. Keyboard kit for mounting on to wheelchair, or to table. £££. Adjustable arm supports, also for wheelchair or table. ££-£££. Keyguard overlay to direct fingers for people with tremor. ££. On-screen keyboard can be operated by someone who can use only a switch. ££££. Wireless remote control keyboard if you cannot sit at a desk. ££££



 Voice recognition software so you can perform almost all computer tasks, including web surfing, with your voice instead of mouse and keyboard. ££

 Word prediction software to save keystrokes and for people with dyslexia. Pick from a list of words after typing first letters. Some with speech output. ££

 Big keys/high contrast keyboard for people who read large print. Upper and lower case, ABC and QWERTY versions available. ££££. Cheaper alternative - removable high contrast key cover sheet/glove. £-££

 Screen magnifiers for people who read large print - low tech or high tech solutions. Clip-on magnifier sheet that also filters out glare. ££. Or there is computer software to enlarge the content on screen (left). Also available with speech output. ££££

👁️ Screen reading software  
Speech output for computer  
operating systems to provide word  
processing, spreadsheets, email  
and Internet - through the  
computer's soundcard and  
speakers. Supplied on CD. £££

👁️ Scanner Converts paper-based  
text into electronic text (top left).  
Used with screen reading software,  
it provides speech output. ££-£££

👁️ Braille display You can control  
speech output, screen cursor and  
text features from a braille display.  
Battery operated. Products and  
prices vary according to number of  
piezoelectric braille cells. ££££

👁️ Embosser Produces braille on  
paper. Different models give  
feedback in speech or tones, vary  
in speed of operation, paper sizes  
and single or double sided  
production. ££££



Braille notetaker

## REN Booster 👁️

You might need one of these  
if you have a lot of products  
using one phone line - like a  
telephone, flashing light  
indicator, textphone, fax  
machine and computer modem.  
Each of these has a REN number  
(Ringer Equivalence Number)  
printed on it to show the power  
it uses. All the REN numbers  
added together must be no  
more than 4. If they add up  
to more you can buy a REN  
booster to bring the REN  
capacity up to 11. It needs DIY  
skills to install it. ££

👁️ Braille notetaker (left) For  
people who need to keep large  
amounts of readily available  
information. Word processor with  
formatting, spell checking and  
printing plus calendar, diary,  
scientific calculator and stop watch.  
Braille and speech output. Battery  
operated. Prices vary by number of  
piezoelectric braille cells. ££££

## Telephones

👁️ Cordless telephones Plug in base and separate handset that can be carried around the house. Analogue and digital phones: digital can cause severe interference to hearing aids. ££

👁️ Talking Caller ID Know who's calling before you answer the telephone. Must subscribe to Caller Display Service from your local operator. Plugs into the phone socket. Mains or battery operated. ££

👁️ Big button telephones (below) Range of models available. Many also have inductive coupling for hearing aid users. Another feature on some: identifying pictures of people on the quick dial keys. ££

👂 Standard telephones Check they have ringer volume and tone controls, good amplification and inductive coupling if you wear a hearing aid with a 'T' position. ££



Inductive neck loop

👂 Mobile phones There are inductive neck loops (above) to cut interference with digital phones for hearing aid wearers using the 'T' position. Used like hands free kits. Check compatibility with your make and model of phone. SMS or text messaging is a way to send short written messages between digital mobile phones: a long job to type with the dial keys. ££

👂 Videophones Telephone with a screen and camera so you see the person you are talking to. Sign language and lip reading possible. Requires a digital line - ISDN or conforming to ISDN standard. £££



Big button telephone

 Textphones Range of models available for hearing and/or speech impaired people who cannot use a voice phone. You have a typed conversation with other textphone users. Features on some include answer phone, flashing light to show ringing, built-in printer or connection for, voice telephone with an inductive coupler and connection to a computer screen. Pocket size also available. £££. See our booklet Guide to buying a textphone.

 Fax machines For home and office use. Particularly useful if you cannot use a voice phone. ££-£££

 For more information on telephony, go to [www.ricability.co.uk](http://www.ricability.co.uk).

Infra red TV listening device



## Television & audio

 Interactive digital services through television. These include email and connection to the Internet - useful for people without a computer, and services such as home banking and home shopping - particularly helpful if you cannot get out and about easily.

 Audio-described TV programmes This is simultaneous spoken description of the visual elements of programmes. Only a small number of terrestrial programmes (on BBC, ITV and Channels 4 and 5) are currently audio-described. Digital television with many more channels has the capacity to provide large scale audio description. The TV regulator, Independent Television Commission, has set targets to gradually increase the proportion of audio described programming.

 TV and audio listening devices for hearing impaired people. Range of battery, and/or mains operated. Sound enhancing units (left) used with headphones, earphones, earloop or neck loop. For use with or without a hearing aid. ££-£££

 Subtitling and captions DVDs can show subtitles with films. Some



videos for sale or hire have subtitles - they carry this logo. You need a Closed

Caption Decoder to display them.

Some come with a choice of backgrounds and display positions and a remote control. ££-£££.

Subtitles are also broadcast on some TV programmes - 'Off Air' or '888' Teletext subtitles on BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channels 4 and 5 terrestrial, satellite and cable if you have a TV and video with Teletext. If not, there are adapters so you can decode, see and record programmes with subtitles. £££

 Home loop system (right) Device which enables hearing aid user to hear a sound system without the other sounds around. Within the wire looped area, a hearing aid switched to 'T' position picks up the audio signal direct from the source eg TV. ££

 Personal inductive listening devices Neck loops, earhooks or headphones for use with portable audio equipment eg personal radio, CD player, cassette player. Plug into the headphone socket and switch your hearing aid to 'T'. ££

 Personal speech amplifier to increase the volume of weak speech. Headset microphone with compact amplifier and speaker unit - all body-worn. Battery operated. £££

 Electronic communicators for people who cannot speak clearly. They display or speak word messages produced by the user touching eg screen symbols or pictures or by a keyboard. Lots of types from simple message devices to powerful communication aids with vast vocabularies, computer compatible. £££-££££



# SMART HOMES the way forward?



**M**uch has been made over the past few years of the importance smart homes will have in our lives. Visions of homes where all your appliances are controlled at the push of a button, from the central heating to the electric kettle, are frequently being seen in the media. The idea of smart homes is not only that you can control your home easily from one central unit, but that appliances in your home can talk to each other and monitor what is happening in your home and to you. There are potentially great benefits that smart homes technology can have for older and disabled people but at the moment it is still too early to say exactly what these will be.

## What is it?

Smart homes have an electronic network that links together appliances (like the washing machine and television) and systems (such as the central heating and lighting) so they can all be controlled centrally in the home and some of them remotely, from outside the home. The technology is usually built into new homes but can be installed in older homes too. It's really an extension of two of the systems mentioned earlier - environmental controls (page 9) and remote control

of electrical appliances (page 7).

Currently few homes have been fitted with smart technology and prices are high. Also there are concerns over the reliability of some of the systems, whether different systems can work together and how they will be maintained.

Across the country there are several smart homes projects which are testing the systems and investigating how they can benefit older and disabled people. To find out more, start with the Useful information section at the back of this booklet.

## Who can help?

You might qualify for help and products from your local authority or the NHS, but if the wait is too long and you can afford to buy them yourself, other organisations can tell you about products and suppliers - see below.

Some simpler products, such as a flashing doorbell, are easy to choose and buy. It would be wise to get expert advice on more complicated devices - to make sure the product answers your needs and to find the right type, size and setting - such as a listening device to suit your hearing aid.

This section tells you about the help and routes available.

## Your local council

Start by contacting the social services department. If you simply want advice on what or where to buy, and you can afford to pay yourself, you are most likely to be told of local advice agencies and possibly commercial suppliers.

If your needs are more complex or urgent, you will be referred to an occupational therapist or specialists, such as a sensory impairment team, to set up an assessment. This sounds formal but it may involve an OT simply visiting and talking with

Andrew is an administrator and company secretary for a research charity. He has used the government's Access to work scheme to purchase the office equipment he needs to do his job. This is a CCTV video magnifier to read printed text and software to enlarge everything on his computer screen. This

you about what might be helpful. If it shows you need products and adaptations, social services should see that you get them.

The assessment is free but some areas have a waiting list. Ask how long it is and if there are priorities. If your case is urgent, explain why - you may get seen sooner. Some councils charge for the products they supply, but they have to take into account your ability to pay. Alternatively they might loan you the equipment. Social services staff should work with people from the health and housing departments if necessary to make sure all your needs are assessed.



“I need a full time job to support my family”

enables him to make full use of all facilities - word processing, spreadsheets, databases, email and Internet.

He has a similar set-up at

home where he studies by correspondence course for the ICSA company secretary exams - when his two boys let him.

There is wide variation between councils not only in waiting times for assessment, but also in waiting for delivery of products and adaptations, the range of services and equipment available, their quality and the cost to older and disabled people. Although you should find out what local community help you can get, you might have to consider buying products privately if state provision in your area is poor. If you want to employ a private occupational therapist, the College of Occupational Therapists (see page 22) has a Directory of Private Practitioners.

## NHS help

Start with your GP to get free help from community nurses or health visitors. They can also arrange the supply of nursing equipment, such as special beds and mattresses. The NHS also supplies wheelchairs, communication aids and environmental control systems (see page 9). These systems are supplied only to a very small number of people with severe physical impairments. Health and social services work closely with the system suppliers in assessing what will suit you. The equipment is provided on loan and maintained free of charge.

## Disabled Living Centres

These are good places to find out about products and try them, with therapists or specialist staff available to give independent advice. There are about 45 DLCs around the UK - the Disabled Living Centres Council (see p22) can tell you your nearest. They are non-profit-making, demonstration, advice and information centres. Most do not sell products but they will be able to tell you where to buy them. DLCs vary in size and what they can do. Make an appointment before you visit.

## Disabled Living Foundation

This is based in London and like other DLCs has products on display and therapists who can advise. In addition the DLF runs a national information service and telephone helpline (see p22). It supplies free equipment lists with descriptive information on named products and contact details of suppliers - from a comprehensive database. The DLF has information on many of the products included in this booklet.

## Home improvement agencies

These are local not-for-profit agencies, sometimes called Care & Repair or Staying Put schemes - over 200 in the UK. They help homeowners or private tenants who are older, disabled or on low income, to improve, maintain or adapt their homes. They can arrange surveys, organise reliable contractors and make sure any work is carried out properly. Contact Foundations (see p23) to find out if you have a nearby agency.

## Financial help

Benefits Check with your local social security or Benefits Agency office for advice on any benefits you may be entitled to towards your living and housing costs. Most benefits paid to people on a low income, such as Income Support, are means-tested. However disability benefits, such as Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance, depend on the amount of care you need and are not means-tested. There are a number of leaflets and detailed guides available from the Benefits Agency and national helplines, such as the Benefit Enquiry Line

for advice and information for people with disabilities and their carers (see p22).

**Disabled Facilities Grant** This is for improvements and adaptations needed because of a disability. You may qualify if you have difficulty getting into your home, moving around in it or have problems using essential facilities, such as the bathroom. The grant has to be approved before work starts. Details from social services, housing or the renovations grants department of your local council.

**Home repair assistance** This is for minor but essential repairs or adaptations, with a top limit of £5,000 for any one application. You have to be over 60, disabled or getting some form of benefit or adapting your home so that an older person can live with you. This grant is not available to Council tenants.

**Voluntary organisations** Some trusts and voluntary organisations for certain conditions have funds for equipment. Charity Search (see p22) have information on sources of funding for older people.

## Buying direct

Unfortunately you won't find many of the products listed in this booklet in high street shops, nor even in the mail order catalogues of general products for easier living. However RNIB and RNID have helpful product catalogues if you have sight and/or hearing problems (see p23). Otherwise you will need to contact the manufacturers and largely specialist suppliers of these higher tech products direct. There are simply too many to list here. DLCs and DLF will tell you who they are, and many have web-sites.

If you are buying direct, think about what the cost covers:

- Does the price include installation and if not, what is the cost?
- Are there any ongoing costs eg of supplies, insurance, maintenance, servicing?

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## Ability Net

PO Box 94, Warwick CV34 5WS  
tel 0800 269 545 fax 01926 407425  
web [www.abilitynet.co.uk](http://www.abilitynet.co.uk)  
email [enquiries@abilitynet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@abilitynet.co.uk)  
computer advice for disabled people.

## Age Concern England

Astral House, 1268 London Road,  
London SW16 4ER  
national helpline 0800 009966  
web [www.ace.org.uk](http://www.ace.org.uk)  
email [ace@ace.org.uk](mailto:ace@ace.org.uk)

## Association of Social Alarms Providers

4 Beaufort House, Beaufort Court,  
Sir Thomas Longley Road, Rochester,  
Kent ME2 4FB  
tel 01634 304200 fax 01634 281234  
web [www.asap-uk.org](http://www.asap-uk.org)  
email [info@asap-uk.org](mailto:info@asap-uk.org)

## Benefits Enquiry Line

tel 0800 882200 text 0800 243355  
(England, Wales, Scotland); tel 0800 220674  
text 0800 243787 (N Ireland) M-F, 8.30-6.30  
free confidential helplines for people  
with disabilities and their carers.

## Centre for Accessible Environments

Nutmeg House, 60 Gainsford Street,  
London SE1 2NY  
tel/text 020 7357 8182  
fax 020 7357 8183  
web [www.cae.org.uk](http://www.cae.org.uk)  
email [info@cae.org.uk](mailto:info@cae.org.uk)  
services for providers and users -  
information, training, consultancy  
and publications.

## Charity Search

25 Portview Road, Avonmouth,  
Bristol BS11 9LD  
tel 0117 982 4060 (10 - 4)  
help for over 65's in finding a grant  
giving charity. Will consider requests  
from disabled people over 40.

## College of Occupational Therapists

106-114 Borough High Street,  
London SE1 1LB  
tel 020 7450 2309 fax 020 7450 2299  
web [www.cot.co.uk](http://www.cot.co.uk)

## Disabled Living Centres Council

Redbank House, 4 St Chad's Street,  
Manchester M8 8QA  
tel 0161 834 1044 text 0161 839 0885  
fax 0161 839 0800  
web [www.dlcc.org.uk](http://www.dlcc.org.uk)  
email [dlcc@dlcc.org.uk](mailto:dlcc@dlcc.org.uk)

## Disabled Living Foundation

380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU  
helpline 0845 130 9177  
text 0870 603 9176  
web [www.dlf.org.uk](http://www.dlf.org.uk)  
email [advice@dlf.org.uk](mailto:advice@dlf.org.uk)

## Foundation for the Advancement of Assistive Technology

Mary Marlborough Centre, Windmill  
Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD  
tel 01865 227 599 fax 01865 227294  
web [www.fastuk.org](http://www.fastuk.org)  
email [info@fastuk.org](mailto:info@fastuk.org)  
has a comprehensive database of  
assistive technology manufacturers,  
research and organisations.

## Foundations

Bleaklow House, Howard Town Mill,  
Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 8HT  
tel 01457 891909 fax 01457 869361  
web [www.foundations.uk.com](http://www.foundations.uk.com)  
email [foundations@cel.co.uk](mailto:foundations@cel.co.uk)  
co-ordinates local home improvement  
agencies.

## Funderfinder

tel 0113 243 3008  
database of grant giving organisations -  
call to find out where you can see it  
locally.

## Independent Living exhibitions

tel 0870 429 4372  
web [www.independentliving.co.uk](http://www.independentliving.co.uk)  
email [enquiries@independentliving.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@independentliving.co.uk)  
exhibitions of disability products  
around the UK.

## Naidex exhibitions

tel 020 8332 0044 fax 020 8332 0874  
web [www.naidex.co.uk](http://www.naidex.co.uk)  
email [naidex@touch-stone.co.uk](mailto:naidex@touch-stone.co.uk)  
large annual exhibition of healthcare  
and disability products.

## Royal National Institute for Deaf People

19-23 Featherstone Street,  
London EC1Y 8SL  
helpline 0808 808 0123  
text 0808 808 9000 fax 020 7296 8199  
web [www.rnid.org.uk](http://www.rnid.org.uk)  
email [informationline@rnid.org.uk](mailto:informationline@rnid.org.uk)

## Royal National Institute of the Blind

RNIB Customer Services, PO Box 173,  
Peterborough PE2 6WS  
helpline 0845 766 9999  
fax 020 7388 2034  
text 18001 0845 766 9999  
web [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)  
email [helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk)

## OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

### [www.astridguide.org](http://www.astridguide.org)

products for people with dementia  
and their carers

### [www.doh.gov.uk](http://www.doh.gov.uk)

Department of Health information  
on services

### [www.hairnet.org](http://www.hairnet.org)

training for home computer users

### [www.makoa.org](http://www.makoa.org)

disability information and resources -  
lots of links (US based)

### [www.smarthomeforum.com](http://www.smarthomeforum.com)

independent information on smart homes

### [www.smartthinking.ukideas.com](http://www.smartthinking.ukideas.com)

information on home technology for  
older and disabled people

### [www.jrf.org.uk/housingtrust/ smarthomes](http://www.jrf.org.uk/housingtrust/smarthomes)

overview of smart homes based on  
research by the Joseph Rowntree  
Foundation

# ricability

Ricability is a charity that researches and publishes information on products and services for older and disabled people.

CENTRE FOR *Accessible* ENVIRONMENTS



The Centre for Accessible Environments is an information provider and a forum for collaborative dialogue between providers and users on how the built environment can best be made or modified to be accessible for all.

The Disabled Living Centres Council leads a UK-wide network of Centres to make a whole life a lot easier.

This report has been produced by Ricability as part of a partnership project with the Centre for Accessible Environments and the Disabled Living Centres Council. Ricability, CAE and DLCC thank the Department of Health for funding the project.

Further copies of this report can be obtained for a stamped (33p) and self addressed envelope to:

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