

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

OTHER HOME SERVICES

Authorization

BoD Resolution 2013/08/27

Date:

October 31, 2013

APPLICATION 2 – HOME MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE LEVEL 1

1. ***What is a home maintenance allowance?*** A home maintenance allowance is a benefit paid under s.89 of the Act that is intended to optimize and/or maintain an injured worker’s independence by offsetting additional home maintenance costs caused by the compensable injury.

There are two levels of home maintenance allowance – Level 1, which is the subject of this policy, and Level 2, which is paid to eligible severely injured workers who must use wheelchairs or similar mobility aids in their homes (see Policy 04-07, Part II, Application 4, Questions 7 – 10).
2. ***Who is eligible for a Level 1 home maintenance allowance?*** Workers are eligible for a Level 1 allowance if they have a permanent compensable injury that is serious (see Part I, 2.0) or severe (see Policy 04-07, Part I), which results in functional impairments that prevent the worker from performing home maintenance tasks such as lawn maintenance, snow removal, painting, etc., him or herself.

WCB first considers whether assistive aids and/or training would enable the worker to perform the maintenance tasks him or herself. If so, WCB will provide the aids and/or training, rather than a home maintenance allowance.
3. ***How is the Level 1 home maintenance allowance paid, and what is it based on?*** The Level 1 home maintenance allowance is paid monthly. It is based on average labour costs over a five-year cycle for normal day-to-day maintenance tasks such as lawn maintenance, snow removal, interior painting, and fence painting. Material costs are not included, as the worker would have had those costs regardless of the work injury.

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Payment of Level 1 home maintenance allowance (continued)

The amount is adjusted annually on January 1 by the same percentage as the cost-of-living adjustment for that year. See Addendum A for the maximum amount payable.

4. *Is a hospitalized worker eligible for a home maintenance allowance?*

A worker who is confined to an institution on a permanent basis is not eligible for a home maintenance allowance. However, if a worker receiving a home maintenance allowance is temporarily hospitalized, WCB will continue the allowance for as long as the worker maintains the residence.

5. *When is this policy application effective?*

This policy application (Application 2 – Home Maintenance Allowance Level 1) is effective December 1, 2013, and applies to all decisions made on or after that date, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

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