

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

OTHER HOME SERVICES

Authorization

BoD Resolution 2016/06/16

Date:

October 25, 2016

APPLICATION 3: HOUSEKEEPING ALLOWANCE

1. *What is a housekeeping allowance?*

A housekeeping allowance is a benefit paid under s.89 of the WCA that is intended to optimize or maintain an injured worker’s independence by offsetting the cost of obtaining outside help for housekeeping tasks that the worker is no longer able to do because of the compensable injury.

2. *Who is eligible for a housekeeping allowance?*

Workers with serious permanent compensable disabilities (see Part I, 2.0) which prevent them from performing some or all of the tasks listed below may be eligible for a housekeeping allowance:

- heavy housekeeping tasks such as washing walls, washing windows, cleaning behind appliances, etc.
- medium-level housekeeping tasks or those that require awkward positioning, such as laundry, putting heavy items on high or low shelves (not waist height), heavy grocery shopping, cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming, or washing floors

WCB first considers whether assistive aids and/or training would enable the worker to complete the housekeeping tasks him or herself. If so, WCB will provide the aids and/or training, rather than a housekeeping allowance.

NOTE: This allowance is intended for workers whose injuries, although serious, are not severe. For services for workers with severe injuries, see Policy 04-07, Part II, Application 4.

3. *What is the allowance based on and how is it paid?*

The allowance is based on typical costs for hiring a cleaning company to complete the included tasks. WCB will periodically review and adjust the allowance amount (see Addendum B).

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

OTHER HOME SERVICES

Authorization

BoD Resolution 2016/06/16

Date:

October 25, 2016

APPLICATION 3: HOUSEKEEPING ALLOWANCE

*Allowance basis and
payment (continued)*

The allowance is paid to the worker as a monthly allowance so that the worker can make his/her own arrangements for the necessary housekeeping.

The allowance does not include general housekeeping that the worker is able to do for him or herself.

4. *Is a hospitalized worker eligible for a housekeeping allowance?*

A worker who is confined to an institution on a permanent basis is not eligible for a housekeeping allowance. However, if a worker receiving a housekeeping 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 3 – Housekeeping Allowance) is effective January 1, 2017, and applies to housekeeping allowances paid for periods on or after that date, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

Previous versions

- [Policy 0410 Part II - January 2017](#)
- [Policy 0410 Part II - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0410 Part II - December 2013](#)