

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

OTHER HOME SERVICES

Authorization

BoD Resolution 2021/06/23

Date:

November 30, 2021

APPLICATION 3: HOUSEKEEPING ALLOWANCE

1. *What is a housekeeping allowance?*

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

Outside help does not include members of the worker’s household living in the same residence as the worker (family or friend). The exception to this is a tenant who rents part of the worker’s residence and is paid or receives a rent reduction in return for providing housekeeping services.

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. 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.

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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).

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

The allowance does not include general housekeeping workers are able to do for themselves.

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. *Will WCB pay a housekeeping allowance retroactively?*

This policy question applies to all initial requests made on or after January 1, 2022, regardless of the date of accident, for retroactive payment of a housekeeping allowance or reimbursement of housekeeping costs.

WCB will consider paying a housekeeping allowance retroactively when all of the following conditions are met:

- The worker meets the eligibility criteria set out in Question 2, and
- There is independent evidence* that the worker hired outside help to do the housekeeping they were unable to do themselves, and
- **The retroactive period is for dates on or after December 1, 2013** (the date that the housekeeping allowance came into effect).

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Retroactive housekeeping allowance (continued)

Payments for periods before December 1, 2013

The housekeeping allowance came into effect on December 1, 2013; consequently, WCB does not pay the allowance for periods before that date.

However, WCB may reimburse workers for actual expenses incurred before December 2013, up to a maximum of \$1,200 per calendar year, provided they meet all of the other eligibility criteria and conditions indicated above.*

The \$1,200 maximum reimbursement is equivalent to a full year of housekeeping allowance at the December 2013 rate.

*Although receipts from the service provider are preferred, WCB understands that workers may not have kept their receipts. WCB will consider other independent evidence, such as confirmation from the housekeeper or cleaning company.

6. When is this policy application effective?

This policy application (Application 3 – Housekeeping Allowance) is effective January 1, 2022, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

Previous versions

- [Policy 0410 Part II - April 2018](#)
- [Policy 0410 Part II - January 2017](#)
- [Policy 0410 Part II - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0410 Part II - December 2013](#)