

Getting Housing Benefit for 2 homes (Dual Housing Benefit)



You cannot usually get Housing Benefit to help with the rent for 2 homes at the same time.

When you sign your tenancy agreement you take responsibility for the rent as soon as the property is ready for you.

You should move in & claim Housing Benefit from the date your tenancy starts. Housing Benefit can usually only be paid for a home if you are living there.

There are **very limited** circumstances when Housing Benefit **may** pay for 2 homes for a short time & this is **not guaranteed**. Always check with the housing benefit office first.

These **may** include –

- When the new home needs adaptations for someone with a disability
- When you have to accept the new tenancy straight away but still have to give notice on your previous home
- When you have to move out of a property damaged by fire or flood & move into somewhere new but still have to give notice on your previous home
- When you leave your home because of violence or fear of violence but you intend to return

The housing benefit department will ask for evidence.

Applying for dual Housing Benefit –

You need to write to the Housing Benefit department asking for this & giving your reasons.

Your letter should include:

- the address of your old tenancy and the date your tenancy ends
- the address of your new tenancy and the date your tenancy starts, and your reasons for moving
- if relevant, why you couldn't end your old tenancy before signing up to the new tenancy

If you cannot get dual Housing Benefit your Worthing Homes rent is your priority. Talk to a debt adviser about money owed to a previous landlord.