

## Getting Housing Benefit or Universal Credit for 2 homes

(Dual payments)



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

When you sign your tenancy agreement you take responsibility for the rent from the date your tenancy starts & this is your most important bill.

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

There are **very limited** circumstances when you **may** get help with rent for 2 homes for a short time & this is **not guaranteed**. Always check with the benefits office first!

Housing Benefit **may** pay for 2 homes (evidence will be needed) -

- 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

**Universal Credit rules are much stricter & they are unlikely to pay for 2 homes**

**Applying for dual payments –**

You need to write to Housing Benefit or put a note on your UC journal 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 payments your Worthing Homes rent is your priority. Talk to a debt adviser about money owed to a previous landlord.**