

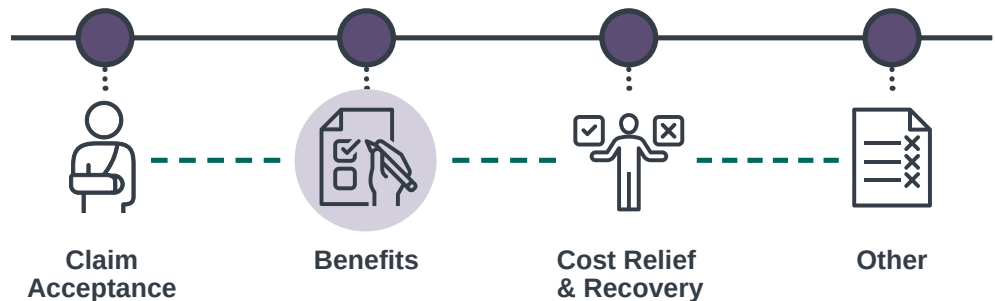
Issue 8: Housekeeping Allowance

Respect • Service • Integrity • Accountability

What is Housekeeping Allowance?



A housekeeping allowance is a benefit paid to workers to offset the cost of help for some household maintenance tasks that they cannot do because of a serious, permanent work-related injury. Examples of serious injuries include rotator cuff tears, ruptured discs, severe ankle/wrist fractures, severe knee injuries and similar injuries.



When is a worker eligible for a housekeeping allowance?*

A worker is eligible for a housekeeping allowance when:

- The worker has a permanent work-related injury (called a compensable injury) that is considered serious; and
- The serious compensable injury stops the worker from doing certain house keeping tasks.

What types of evidence are commonly used to answer the questions?

Typically, a panel will ask the following questions:

- Does the weight of evidence establish that the worker has functional restrictions due to a serious, permanent compensable injury that prevents him/her from performing some or all of the following:
 - 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?

What types of evidence are commonly used to answer the questions?

- Medical and occupational therapy reports/opinion on the work-related injury and the impact on the worker's ability to do housekeeping tasks.
- Medical and occupational therapy reports/opinion on whether aids or training would assist the worker on doing such tasks
- Information about who does housekeeping tasks in the worker's home
- Information about whether the worker has paid for housekeeping assistance (if the worker wants a housekeeping allowance for dates prior to when the benefit was requested)

* There may be special rules for housekeeping allowances for dates in 2013 or earlier. See WCB Policy 04-10.

Resources



Legislation:

[Workers' Compensation Act](#),
RSA 2000, c W-15

WCB Policy:

[04-10 Part I](#),
[04-10 Part II, Application 3](#)

Sample Decisions:

[2022-0377](#)