

A guide to choosing a vertical lifting appliance for your home



Introduction

This guide presents the vertical lifting solutions (which we call 'lifts' although this covers different types as explained below) available for travelling from floor to floor within your home. If...

- you have already decided to have a new lift installed in your property, or
 - you are considering a new lift and require further information on the options available, or
 - you are acting in an advisory capacity to someone who may have a need for a new lift
- ...our Guide highlights some essential factors you should consider before making your purchase.

Important considerations

Your practical needs

- How many passengers does it need to accommodate?
- Does the lift need to accommodate a wheelchair user?
- How many floors does it need to serve?
- How much space is available for the lift?
- Where could the lift be located?

It is a good idea to review these questions with your chosen manufacturer/supplier as they will be able to provide expert advice and guidance.

Lift dimensions

Your requirements will greatly influence the specification of your lift, for example if you have a requirement to accommodate a wheelchair user. The lift types presented in this guide can all be specified to accommodate your exacting needs. Again, speak to your chosen manufacturer/supplier as they will be able to provide expert advice and guidance.

Safety standards

Vertical lifting appliances are powered machinery and are designed to comply with rigorous safety standards. It is essential to ensure that your chosen manufacturer/supplier can demonstrate that their product complies with the appropriate British and European safety standards.



The safety standards applicable to the lifts presented in this guide are:

BS EN 81-20 for passenger lifts.

BS EN 81-41 for vertical lifting platforms intended for use by persons with impaired mobility.

BS EN 81-42 for vertical lifting appliances with enclosed carrier intended for use by persons, including persons with disability ("slow speed lifts") (currently under development).

BS 5900 for powered homelifts with partially enclosure carrier and no liftway enclosures and as a basis for homelifts with fully enclosed carrier.

Note: compliance with these standards is not mandatory but demonstrates that essential safety requirements of UK Regulations have been followed. Where a manufacturer does not fully follow one of these standards, they must still meet these essential safety requirements.



Fire protection

The installation of a vertical lifting appliance in your home raises some important fire protection considerations:

- **Through floor homelifts** – these lifts require the creation of an aperture for the lift to pass through when travelling from floor to floor. The cutting of this opening will remove the natural fire protection created by the combined ceiling and floor. It is vital that you select a homelift that will maintain the fire and smoke protection between floors, whether it is parked upstairs or downstairs, as specified in BS 5900.
- **Vertical lifting platforms** – typically, the enclosed liftway component of the installation will not be fire resistant as standard (the lift landing doors component should be fire rated). Where the enclosure is required to be fire resistant, it may be necessary for your builder to clad the enclosure in fire resistant material.
- **Conventional passenger lifts** – fire resistance should be factored as part of the building design and building work stages of the installation. Speak to your chosen manufacturer/supplier and builder as they will be able to provide expert advice and guidance.

Building control approval and building work

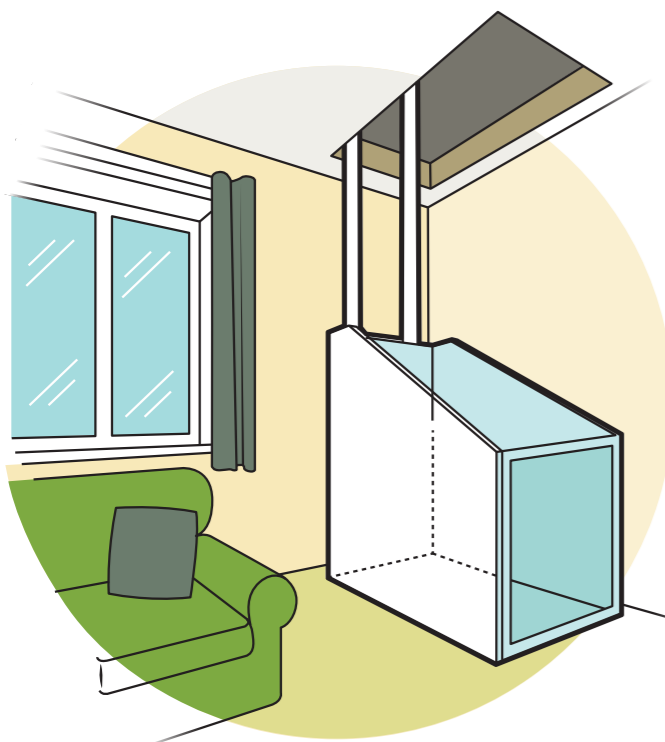
The installation of a vertical lifting appliance in your home does not require planning permission, however Building Control approval is necessary if the installation involves the alteration of the structural integrity of your home.

The type of lift chosen and its installation location will determine the extent and complexity of building works required.

Your chosen lift manufacturer/supplier will be able to advise you on the alterations and if necessary, may organise local Building Control approval of the work.

Types of Vertical Lifting Appliance available for your home

There are several types of vertical lifting appliances that are specifically designed for a private dwelling, whether an existing home or a new build.



Homelift – partially enclosed cabin

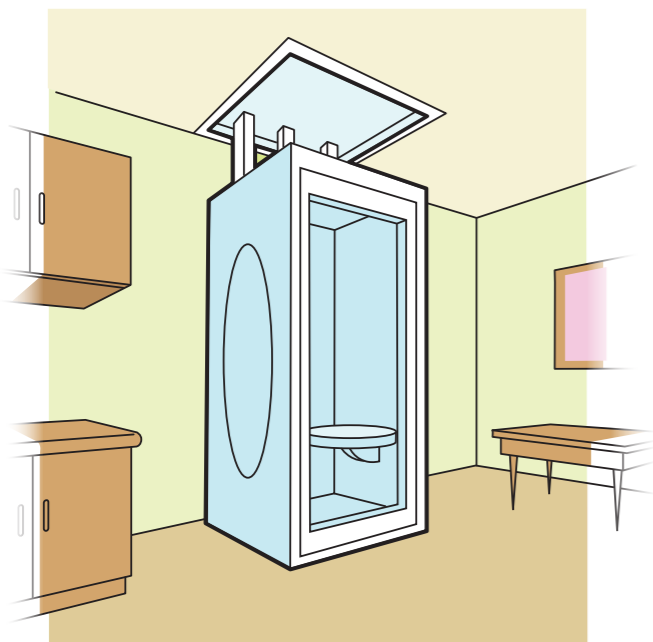
A lift with a partially enclosed cabin that has no liftway (shaft) and travels between 2 floors. Speed is a maximum of 0.15m/s.

This type of lift does not require a liftway (shaft), so minimises use of space. However, it may only be used in private dwellings.

Key considerations:

- partially enclosed cabin
- serves 2 floors only passing through the floor/ceiling
- different sizes allow for seated or a single wheelchair user
- minimal building work required

This type of product should be compliant with safety standard BS 5900 and travels between 2 floors.



Homelift – fully enclosed cabin

A lift with a fully enclosed cabin that has no liftway (shaft) and travels between 2 floors. Speed is a maximum of 0.15m/s.

This type of lift does not require a liftway so minimises use of space. However, it may only be used in private dwellings.

Key considerations:

- fully enclosed cabin
- serves 2 floors only passing through the floor/ceiling
- different sizes allow for seated, standing, a single wheelchair user or wheelchair user plus an attendant standing.
- minimal building work required

This type of product should be generally compliant with safety standard BS 5900 except for the cabin (BS 5900 assumes a partially enclosed cabin).

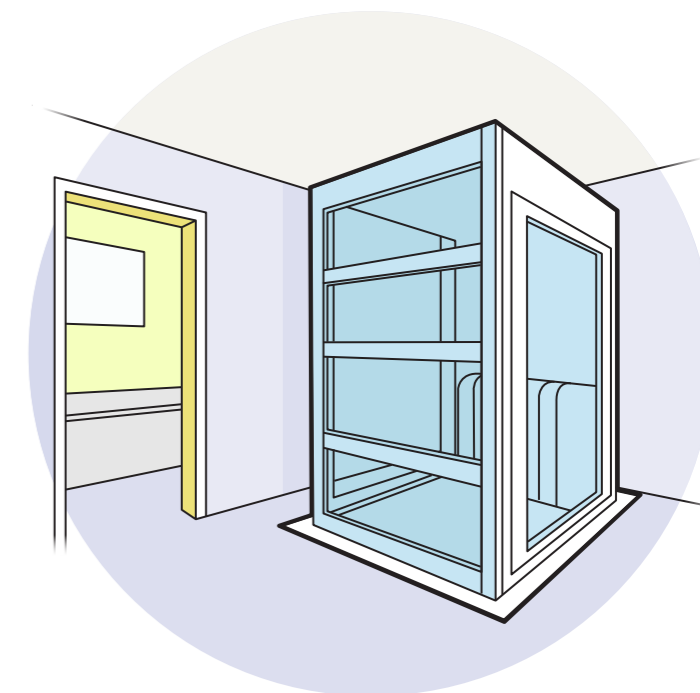
Vertical lifting platform

A lifting platform that travels within an enclosed liftway (shaft) for persons with impaired mobility. The enclosure is typically part of the lifting platform installation and can feature glass or coloured panels. Control is by “constant pressure” buttons from the platform and speed is a maximum of 0.15m/s.

Key considerations:

- moving platform within fixed enclosure
- serves from 2-4 floors
- constant pressure controls from platform
- light building work required
- one touch calls from landing

This type of product should be compliant with safety standard BS EN 81-41.



Slow speed lift

A fully enclosed cabin lift that travels within a shaft with only landing doors visible. It looks like a conventional passenger lift, but travels at slow speed (0.15m/s maximum) so can be provided with minimal pit depth and headroom.

Key considerations:

- fully enclosed cabin and lift well
- serves multiple floors
- general passenger use
- medium builders work – minimal pit depth and headroom but lift shaft needed

A ‘slow-speed’ lift should comply with safety standard BS EN 81-42 once this is published (currently under development).

Conventional passenger lift

Similar to a slow speed lift but runs at higher speed so needs deeper pit and larger headroom space, therefore has more onerous builders work requirements.

A conventional passenger lift should comply with safety standard BS EN 81-20.



Manufacturers & suppliers – buy with confidence from a LEIA member

Members of LEIA – the Lift and Escalator Industry Association – are committed to its objectives which include upholding the best standards of quality, design and workmanship and the highest levels of safety. All members are required to be certified to strict quality standards:

- **BS ISO 9001** – demonstration of a company’s ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements.
- **BS OHSAS 18001** or **BS ISO 45001** – demonstration of a company’s sound occupational health and safety performance.

By choosing a LEIA member you can be assured of their commitment to Quality, Safety and Service of personal lift products.

What this means to YOU as a customer is...

- **Assurance** – that your lift meets all relevant British Standards and Safety Regulations.
- **Security** – in the knowledge that your supplier adheres to the LEIAs Code of Practice for Personal Lift Equipment.
- **Confidence** – that you have chosen a lift company who put the satisfaction, comfort and safety of customers first.

LEIA members who supply and install vertical lifting appliances for the home

(click on the company name to visit their website)

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cibes Lifts UK | Morris Vermaport | Stannah |
| Dolphin Lifts Midlands | Olympic Lifts | Swansea Lift Repair & Service |
| Dorset Lifts | Orona | Terry Lifts |
| Elevators Ltd | Pickerings | Thyssenkrupp |
| Gartec | Pollock Lifts | Wessex Lifts |
| Husbands | Sheridan Lifts | |

Further information and help

Disability Facilities Grant – you could get a grant from your council if you’re disabled and need to make changes to your home, including the installation of a homelift, to improve access to rooms and facilities. Further information is available from [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

Local support services – contact your local home improvement agency (HIA) for advice and help in accessing local support services. You can find your local HIA via [Foundations](#)

Consumer Rights – [Citizens Advice](#) can tell you about your rights when buying online or in person.

Glossary of terms

Cabin/Carrier – part of a homelift, lifting platform or lift by which persons are supported in order to be lifted or lowered.

Lift well (of a lift) – space in which the car travels, usually bounded by the bottom of the pit, the walls and the ceiling of the well.

Liftway (of a lifting platform) – space that is fully bounded by the bottom of the pit and a solid enclosure (but not necessarily a ceiling) and landing doors.

Pit – the part of the liftway/lift well situated below the lowest landing served by the carrier.

Checklist

- Understand your specific practical needs
- Do your product/supplier research
- Speak to LEIA member manufacturers and suppliers to discuss your needs and understand the options available to you
- Understand the full costs involved – purchase, installation, maintenance and warranties
- Seek further information and help to support your buying decision



This guide is produced by the Lift and Escalator Industry Association.

If you have any questions related to this guide please direct them to:

**The Personal Lift Group
Lift & Escalator Industry Association**

33-34 Devonshire Street
London W1G 6PY

Tel: 020 7935 3013

Email: enquiries@leia.co.uk

www.leia.co.uk