



What happens next

Once you've registered with Help to Buy South

Registering with Help to Buy South will enable you to register your interest and apply for developments and specific homes available for Shared Ownership, Shared Ownership Resales or Rent to Buy.

This guide is designed to answer some initial questions you may have about your application, how to apply for properties and what to expect now you are registered with us.

Please note, if you want to purchase a home with the Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme, the application process is slightly different and you do not need to register with Help to Buy South. Please refer to the Guide to Help to Buy Equity Loan for more information.

Your contact information

Based on the information you gave us on your application, Housing Associations and developers will only contact you with information on properties that you have registered an interest in.

From time to time, you will also get sent invitations to open days, show homes, and Help to Buy shows. The Help to Buy shows are an excellent way to talk to Housing Associations and developers who are selling and renting homes in your area. The shows also have financial and legal advisors on hand for free advice. Help to Buy shows from Help to Buy South are held on a regular basis, with further details being listed on the website, helptobuyshow.co.uk.

You can opt in or out of receiving general marketing information by updating your application on line.

Every 6 months we will contact you by email if you have not yet found a home to make sure you still want to be registered with Help to Buy South. It is very important that you respond to this as we will cancel your application otherwise. If you or the first applicant (if a joint application) have not registered an email address with us, we will contact you by letter.

To avoid missing out on any new opportunities, check your inbox and spam mail if you have not stored our email addresses: info@helptobuysouth.co.uk, and events@helptobuysouth.co.uk as a contact.

Now I am registered, what happens next?

The length of time people are registered with Help to Buy South can vary depending on individual's circumstances.

You can set up saved searches so you will be notified immediately by email of any properties

you are interested in when they are added to our website.

Visit our website, find a property you like and click the Register Interest button. This notifies the housing association/developer of your interest.

If you would like further details of your chosen property please contact the housing association/developer direct.

The Housing Association/developer will be able to talk you through the process from start to finish as each association's procedures may vary slightly and will depend on your eligibility.

Once you have viewed the property and you decide if you like the home, an 'interview' will be carried out to fully explain the scheme. It will also be a chance for you to ask any questions you may have.

Whether you rent or buy, you must be able to satisfy the affordability requirements of the particular home, and demonstrate you are able to sustain the housing and living costs.

Prioritisation

Priority for all schemes will be given to serving military personnel (see our website/guides for eligibility criteria) otherwise homes are offered on a first come, first served basis. Some properties may need to be prioritised by the Housing Association/Local Authority offering the home due to planning conditions e.g. people living or working in the area.

This will vary from development to development and advertised where necessary. Contact the Housing Association directly for more information when expressing an interest in a specific home.

Eligibility

To be eligible for Shared Ownership, Shared Ownership Resales, and Rent to Buy schemes, you must have a household income of less than £80,000 per year.

You don't need to be a first time buyer to apply. The schemes can help some buyers who have owned a home before, for example in the case of a relationship breakdown. These applicants would need to sell their existing home first and may also need to be nominated by their Local Authority as being in priority need (i.e. their current home is unsuitable for their needs).

Affordability

Once you have expressed an interest and viewed a property (subject to eligibility), the Housing Association/developer will assess your affordability.

A financial assessment will then be carried out by an approved Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) to provide the housing association/developer with a more in-depth assessment of what you can afford. We have a list of recommended IFAs on our website. **A credit check**

or bank reference may also be requested as part of the assessment.

If purchasing, the IFA will be able to tell you how a mortgage works, repayments involved, taking into account other costs involved with finding a new home. **Your initial assessment will be free of charge but there may be a fee charged by the advisor for arranging your mortgage.**

You will need to provide proof of income, savings etc. Please see our guide to Shared Ownership and Rental schemes for further details and costs involved.

Important things to remember

In order to make your application with Help to Buy South a success, you need to:

- **Keep your application and contact details with Help to Buy South as up-to-date as possible**
- **Check the website on a regular basis www.helptobuysouth.co.uk and save your property searches**
- **Notify housing associations/developers you are interested in properties by clicking on Register Interest on the property details page of the website**

Call us on 0800 456 11 88

Email us info@helptobuysouth.co.uk

Write to us Help to Buy South
Collins House
Bishopstoke Road
Eastleigh
SO50 6AD

Updating your application

Making sure your application with us is kept up-to-date will help us to let you know about properties available that match your needs, as well as giving housing associations a basic overview of what you can afford.

If your circumstances change in any way, please amend your application to reflect this, including changes in:

- **Income** - This will affect what you can raise in a mortgage and therefore your affordability.
- **Savings** - You will need to demonstrate you have access to enough savings to cover a mortgage deposit or rental deposit.
- **Loans/credit cards** - Both new and existing balances as this will impact on your affordability.
- **Contact details** - Current address, phone numbers, email address.
- **Property requirements** - Type, area, size, location.
- **Family members** - e.g. children

If you applied by filling in a paper application

To update us with your changes:

Call us on 0800 456 11 88

Email us info@helptobuysouth.co.uk

Write to us Help to Buy South

Collins House

Bishopstoke Road

Eastleigh

SO50 6AD

If you originally applied online

Go to www.helptobuysouth.co.uk, go to the 'Register/Login' menu, and log in to your application with your email address and chosen password.

Once logged in, follow each page on the 'application form' tab, amending your details as required. 'Save and complete' each of the pages until you receive a message reading 'Thank You for Your Application'. Your application has now been successfully updated.

Contact us

If you require any further information please get in touch

By Post

Help to Buy South
Collins House
Bishopstoke Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO50 6AD

By Phone

0800 456 11 88

By Email

info@helptobuysouth.co.uk

Via the Website

www.helptobuysouth.co.uk

The advice team is available to take your phone calls Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.

Help to Buy South is also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Search for 'Help to Buy South' and like our page and follow our updates.