

What is the Household Benefit Cap?

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 allows the Government to put a limit on the total amount of benefit which a household can claim.

How is it calculated?

The cap for working age households is set at:

- £500 per week (£26,000 per year) for single parents and couples with or without children
- £350 per week (£18,200 per year) for single people without children.

The benefits included in the cap are:

- Bereavement Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (unless you get the support component)
- Guardian's Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Incapacity Benefit
- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Maternity Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Universal Credit

- Widowed Parent's Allowance (or Widowed Mother's Allowance or Widows Pension you started getting before 9 April 2001).

The cap does not include the following benefits:

- Working Tax Credits (If anyone in the household claims)
- Disability Living Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment
- Attendance Allowance
- Industrial Injuries Benefits (and equivalent payments as part of a war disablement pension or the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme)
- Employment and Support Allowance, if you get the support component
- War Widow's or War Widower's Pension
- War pensions
- Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
- Armed Forces Independence Payment.

How does it affect me?

The amount you get in certain benefits, usually Housing Benefit, will be reduced so that the total amount you are getting is not more than the cap level. This will mean you have to make up the difference towards your rent payments yourself.

The benefit cap is changing from April 2016.

From April 2016 the Benefit Cap will be set at:

- £442 if you are a couple or have children and live in London
- £335 if you are a couple or have children and live outside London
- £296 if you are a single person and live in London
- £258 if you are a single person and live outside London.

Need further support?

To find out more about your benefits and to get help and support, contact Jobcentre Plus on **0800 055 6688** or the Government's information line on **0845 605 7064**.

Or you can seek advice from an advice website such as **entitledto.co.uk**



Thank you for downloading this information sheet from **accordgroup.org.uk**.
If you require further information, please visit our website or call our Customer First team on **0300 111 7000** or email **customerfirst@accordgroup.org.uk**

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