



From mountain to sea

# Empty Homes/ Service and Merchant's Discounts



## Scheme Overview

The Scottish Empty Homes Partnership have secured services and discounts from several companies on a range of products and services that can help owners of empty homes return them to use. Where empty homes discounts apply, these are standardised, so no matter which branch the owner shops at, the discount will be the same.

**It should be noted that providing this information about discounts does not constitute an endorsement from Aberdeenshire Council or the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership for the companies offering the discounts.**

## How do owners access the discounts?

If you are an empty home owner who would like to explore the benefit of purchasing goods from these companies, you should contact the Empty Homes Service at [emptyhomes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:emptyhomes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) for further advice on this and to assist your plan for bringing the empty property back into use. The Empty Homes Service will then contact the Merchant to arrange this and will then advise the owner how to access their discount. This may include either issuing a letter for the owner to take to the Merchant or arrange to have a Trade Discount card issued if this option is available.

## Products

The companies offering services and discounts can supply a wide range of products that should enable owners to address most repairing and improvement projects, for example:

- **Building materials: bricks, cement etc.**
- **Painting & decorating**
- **Kitchens and bathrooms**
- **Surveys and Schedule of Works**
- **Home Reports**
- **Auction and pre purchase renovation**
- **Flooring and tiles**
- **Doors, windows, ironmongery**
- **Timber & sheet materials**
- **Insulation**
- **Damp proof courses**

## Participating Companies

The following companies are offering incentives for empty home owners:-

- **Auction House Scotland**  
[Auction House Scotland | Property Auctioneers in Scotland](#)
- **Azets (VAT Tax Specialists)**  
[Local Accountants & Business Advisory Services | Azets UK](#)
- **Dulux Decorator Centres**  
[Painting & Decorating Merchants | Dulux Decorator Centre](#)
- **Finders International**  
[Finders International : Trusted Probate Genealogists & Missing Heir Experts](#)
- **Howdens Joinery**  
[Howdens | The UK's Number 1 Trade Kitchen Supplier](#)
- **Hypostyle Architects**  
[Hypostyle](#)
- **Jewson Builder's Merchant**  
[Jewson Builders Merchants, Timber Merchants & Tool Hire](#)
- **Keyline Builders Merchants**  
[Keyline - Largest suppliers of Civils & Drainage solutions](#)
- **M&T (Builders Merchants) Ltd**  
[M&T Builders Merchants](#)
- **Rearo Laminates**  
[Bathroom Laminate Panels | Vinyl Flooring | Panelling | Tiles \(rearo.co.uk\)](#)
- **Rentokil**  
[Rentokil UK: Local Pest Control, Damp, Woodworm & Rot Experts](#)
- **Shepherd Chartered Surveyors**  
[Shepherd Chartered Surveyors | Scotland's Leading Surveying Firm](#)
- **Travis Perkins**  
[Travis Perkins | Builders' Merchant | Building Supplies](#)
- **VPS Group**  
[Vacant Property Protection - Temporary Site Security - VPS Group](#)
- **Wholesale Domestic**  
[Quality Bathroom Retailer UK | Wholesale Domestic](#)
- **William Wilson**  
[William Wilson - Home](#)

Details of branch locations and product types are available online. Please advise which branch you would like to use when you get in touch with us. We always recommend that owners obtain a number of estimates for products from a range of suppliers, in order to access the best prices.

## Considerations for owners

Advice on organising and carrying out repairs is available in Aberdeenshire Council's Scheme of Assistance leaflets [Homeowners - advice and support - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

Owners should always check to see if any permissions are required from the Council before carrying out alterations or extensions to property and advice is available from the Planning Service - [Contact Planning team - Aberdeenshire Council](#) and Building Standards Officers at Aberdeenshire Council - [Building Standards - Aberdeenshire Council](#).

## Has your property been empty for longer than 2 years?

If your property has been empty for over two years and you are having works carried out to the property by a VAT registered contractor, you may qualify for a discounted rate of 5% VAT on these services and building supplies provided by them.

If your property has been empty for more than 10 years, you may be eligible to reclaim VAT paid on building supplies from HMRC on completion, depending on the end use. This equates to paying 0% VAT.

To access these discounts, you need a letter from your Empty Homes Officer verifying how long your property has been empty. Get in touch via the email address below to request your letter and for further information on this.

Full information regarding this scheme is available at [Buildings and construction \(VAT Notice 708\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

✉ **Contact Aberdeenshire Council if you have an empty home and would like further advice:** [emptyhomes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:emptyhomes@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

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