



KIWISAVER **FIRST HOME WITHDRAWAL GUIDE**



Members of KiwiSaver schemes may be able to withdraw their savings (except for \$1,000) to put towards buying their first home, once three years or more have passed since Inland Revenue received their first KiwiSaver contributions, or the date the member first joined a KiwiSaver scheme.

In addition to a first home withdrawal, after three years of contributing to KiwiSaver, a member may be entitled to the HomeStart grant. The grant is administered by Housing New Zealand. Qualifying members may be entitled for a Grant of up to \$5,000 for existing houses and \$10,000 for new builds, depending on certain criteria. Terms and conditions apply and all enquiries about the HomeStart grant should be directed to Housing New Zealand. For more information go to hnzc.co.nz.

APPLICATION PROCESS

When can I apply?

You can apply for a KiwiSaver First Home Withdrawal provided you have been a member of KiwiSaver for at least three years.

How can I apply?

You need to complete an application form and submit it to Mercer, along with all required supporting documents. You can download the form at force4families.nzdf.mil.nz or request it by calling the Helpline on 0800 333 787.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT PROCESS

How long will it take to process my application?

We will require a minimum of 10 working days from receipt of the fully completed application form in order to process your application. You will also need to provide a copy of the agreement for sale and purchase of your intended first home plus a certificate from your solicitor.

Who will approve my application?

The manager will review your application and make a decision based on the information you provide. The manager will consider your application very carefully to ensure you satisfy the eligibility criteria. Please ensure that all information is correct and you have completed all the required fields and provided all the necessary supporting documents when you submit your withdrawal form. If the manager finds that information is not correct or is missing, your application will be returned to you and the withdrawal process may take longer. The application will be halted until the correct/complete information is received.



When will the payment be made?

If approved, the payment will be made to your solicitor's bank account.

Can the withdrawal be paid directly to me?

No, Mercer is required to pay the first home withdrawal directly to your solicitor.

What happens if the house sale falls through?

The withdrawal payment made to your solicitor will be returned to Mercer and the funds will be credited to your KiwiSaver account. You will need to make a new application if you find another property.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

How do I know if I qualify?

To qualify you have to be a member of a KiwiSaver scheme (or complying scheme) for three or more years.

You must be buying your first property, to live in, not as an investment property.

Can I still qualify if I owned a property before?

If you have owned a property before, you may still be able to make a withdrawal under the KiwiSaver first home withdrawal scheme. You will need to satisfy criteria determined and assessed by Housing New Zealand. For more information go to hnzc.co.nz.

What can I use this money for?

The KiwiSaver first home withdrawal must generally be used to help you buy your first property in New Zealand. It cannot be used to buy an investment property.

AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO WITHDRAW

How much can I withdraw?

You must leave a minimum of \$1,000 in your KiwiSaver account with the balance of your savings available for withdrawal.

The amount available to be withdrawn will depend on your account balance at the time the withdrawal is processed.

How many times can I make this withdrawal?

You can only make this withdrawal once, after being a member of a KiwiSaver scheme for three or more years.

If I make the withdrawal, will my contributions during the year still be eligible for member tax credits?

Yes, all contributions made by you into your KiwiSaver account will qualify for member tax credits.

HOMESTART GRANT

What has happened to the KiwiSaver First Home Deposit Subsidy?

The KiwiSaver First Home Deposit Subsidy has been replaced with the HomeStart grant.

What are the benefits of the HomeStart grant?

The HomeStart grant introduces incentives for new builds and new price caps for different locations around New Zealand.

Where can I go to get more information?

Please contact Housing New Zealand, as they are responsible for processing the grant. You can either e-mail your query to kiwisaver.firsthome@hnzc.co.nz or call the Housing New Zealand Helpline on 0508 935 266.

This document was prepared by Mercer (N.Z.) Limited the Manager of the New Zealand Defence Force KiwiSaver Scheme.

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