

# What is a Decant?

**Decant refers to the process of temporarily relocating residents from their social housing property to alternative accommodation while essential works, such as refurbishment, renovation, or demolition, are carried out. This process is often employed in the UK housing sector to ensure the safety and well-being of residents during construction or retrofitting projects.**

In the context of social housing, decanting is a critical strategy used by local authorities and housing associations to facilitate large-scale improvements to housing stock. For example, a council might decant residents from a block of flats undergoing energy efficiency upgrades, such as the installation of insulation or new ventilation systems, to comply with Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Power) of the Building Regulations 2022.

Decanting ensures that residents are not exposed to potential hazards such as dust, noise, or structural instability during construction. It also allows contractors to work more efficiently without the constraints of occupied properties. Residents are typically provided with suitable temporary accommodation, often within the same locality, to minimise disruption to their daily lives.

**Synonym(s):** Temporary relocation, rehousing