



6 ways to make your home more accessible



Entry

Avoid or eliminate stairs, and install ramps or lifts if necessary. Consider the slope/grade from the parking area to the entry. Provide a level threshold or one that does not stand up more than .5 inches from the floor.



Circulation path

Install hard-surface flooring. Avoid throw rugs in the circulation path or tack them down to make them secure. Arrange furniture to allow for turning space and circulation.



Provide support

Install grab bars around toilet and shower. Provide a shower bench (portable or built-in models are available). Install a toilet riser or raised-height toilet.



Doors

Widen doorways to at least 32 inches clear. Consider sliding or pocket doors where applicable. Consider removing closet doors for ease of access.



Operational controls

Choose door hardware, faucets, and appliances that can be easily operated with one hand and limited hand function. Avoid any that require pinching or turning.



Ease of access

Make things easily reachable by installing pullout shelves in cabinets, installing a hand-held shower, providing electrical outlets within reach, and placing commonly used items in easy-to-reach places. Provide a lower counter for seated users. Install appliances with front or side controls. Replace bathtubs with low-threshold showers.

5 things to look for when purchasing an accessible home

1

Single level

Look for a single level (ranch/rambler) style home. If the house is more than one story, make sure at least one bedroom and bathroom as well as kitchen, living, and laundry spaces are on the main floor.

2

No stairs

Avoid stairs, inside and out. Consider the slope from the parking area to the entry. If stairs are present, assess the ability to ramp the route.

3

Open floor plan

Look for large, open floor plans (or potential). Pay special attention to kitchen, bath, and laundry spaces. Consider the circulation path, paying attention to turning space. An attached garage is preferred.

4

Wide doorways

Look for wide doorways (at least 32 inches). Assess closets for ease of access.

5

Provide support

Install grab bars around toilet and shower. Provide a shower bench (portable or built-in models are available). Install a toilet riser or raised-height toilet.

Learn more

Only 3% of successful families and individuals are thinking about this, but over 30% are likely to be affected. Get the latest research and stay prepared.

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