



## Home Safety & Accessibility Checklist

Use this checklist as a guide to thinking through the comfort and functionality of your home, now and in the future. This checklist is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to serve as a starting point in exploring how you can make your living spaces work for you.

Space and Considerations	Good to Go	Needs Work	Cause for Concern	Questions, ideas, and notes
<b>Overall Design</b>				
The main living areas in my home are on the same level, including a full bathroom.				
There are no steps between rooms and areas on the same level.				
There is plenty of space to move and turn around (at least 5 feet by 5 feet is recommended) in living area, kitchen, a bedroom, and a bathroom.				
<b>Outside/Exterior</b>				
My home is constructed with low-maintenance materials (examples: vinyl, brick).				
The shrubs and plants around my home are low-maintenance.				
The deck, patio, or balcony are no more than a half inch below interior floor level if made of wood.				
<b>Hallways</b>				
The hallways in my home are at least 36-inches wide or wider (the wider the better).				
The hallways in my home are well lit.				
<b>Entryways</b>				
There is an accessible path of travel from the street to my house with no stairs, steep inclines, or other obstacles.				
At least one entry to my home is covered and has no steps.				
The front door lock at the no step-entry is well lit by automatic lights.				
The door is 36 inches or wider with at least 32 inches of clearance to go through it.				
The foyer has non-slip flooring.				
My entry door has a sidelight or peep-hole so I can see who is at the door.				
My doorbell is in an accessible place.				
There is a place for me to safely set down packages, mail, belongings, or groceries when opening the door.				

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<b>Thresholds (transitions between rooms)</b>				
The thresholds in my home are even (flush) with the flooring.				
Outside thresholds are no more than a half high.				
Inside thresholds are no more than a quarter inch high.				
<b>Interior Doors</b>				
The doors are 36 inches or wider with at least 32 inches of clearance to go through them.				
The hardware on the doors in my home are levers, as opposed to knobs, which can be difficult to open.				
<b>Windows</b>				
The hardware on my windows is easy to use.				
I have plenty of windows for natural light.				
The windows are lowered or if they are tall, they have lower sills.				
The outside and interior finishes on my windows are low maintenance.				
<b>Garage</b>				
The place where I park and get in and out of my vehicle is covered.				
The place where I park my vehicle is wider than average to accommodate a van with a lift if needed.				
The height of my garage or carport is at least nine feet (or able to be heightened) to accommodate a raised roof van.				
There is at least a five-foot space between the vehicle and entry to the home				
There is a ramp or space to build one to the doorway if necessary.				
There is a handrail in my garage if there are steps.				
<b>Faucets</b>				
The faucets in my home have lever handles or are pedal-controlled.				
I have thermostatic or anti-scald controls to prevent burns from hot water.				
The faucets in my home are pressure-balanced.				
<b>Kitchen and Laundry</b>				
There is at least a 2 ½ by 4 foot 30-inch space to turn around near my appliances.				
I have or can install work areas at different heights to accommodate different needs.				
I have work spaces with seats under my counter or close to the main work areas.				



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There is plenty of light to help me see what I'm doing in the kitchen.				
The handles on my appliances are loop handles so I can open them easily.				
The faucet in my kitchen is a pull-out spray faucet and I have lever handles as opposed to knobs, which can be hard to use.				
In multi-story homes, laundry chute or laundry facilities in master bedroom.				
<b>Counters</b>				
There is plenty of support and space for adjustable and/or varied height counters and if necessary, I can take out base cabinets.				
My upper cabinets are at least three inches lower than conventional height				
If vision is an issue, I can add accented stripes on edge of countertops to help me see what I am doing.				
I have plenty of counter space to set dishes that is close to all of my appliances.				
I can install roll out trays and lazy Susans in my lower cabinets to prevent straining and discomfort.				
I can install pull-down shelving if reaching becomes an issue for me.				
I have glass-front cabinet doors that allow me to see the contents.				
I have or can install open shelving to help me get to the things I use often more easily.				
<b>Appliances</b>				
The controls on my appliances are easy to read.				
My washing machine and dryer are raised 12-15 inches above floor for easy access.				
My laundry machines are front-loading so I don't have to bend and reach.				
My microwave is at counter height or easily accessible.				
My refrigerator/freezer is a side-by-side so I don't have to bend and reach.				
My oven is a side-swing oven or installed in the wall.				
My dishwasher is or can be raised and has push-button controls.				
My stove has level burners for safety in transferring between the burners, front controls, and a light to indicate when it is hot.				
<b>Bathroom</b>				
There is plenty of support and space for adjustable and/or varied height counters and if necessary, I can take out base cabinets.				

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If vision is an issue, I can add accented stripes or a colored border at the edge of countertops to help me see what I am doing.				
At least one bathroom on main level is wheelchair friendly with at least 5 feet turning radius or acceptable T-turn space and a space of at least 3 feet by 3 feet or 2 ½ feet by 4 feet to turn around.				
There is bracing in the walls around tub, shower, shower seat, and toilet for installation of grab bars to support 250-300 pounds.				
I have or can make my shower curbless and at least 3 feet wide.				
My bathtub is lower for easier access or is a walk-in tub.				
I have or can get a fold down seat for my shower.				
I have or can get an adjustable/handheld showerhead with at least a 6-foot hose.				
The controls on my shower or tub are offset from the center.				
My shower stall has built-in antibacterial protection.				
There is a light in the shower stall.				
I have or can install a toilet that's height-adjustable or two and half inches higher than standard toilet.				
My toilet paper holder allows rolls to be changed with one hand.				
I have or can install a sink hung from the wall or vanity with space underneath for my legs.				
The flooring in my bathroom and shower is slip-resistant.				
<b>Stairs and Lifts</b>				
I have handrails on both sides of my stairway(s) that are at least 1 ¼" in diameter.				
If vision is an issue, I have the ability to add contrast strips on the first and last steps and use contrast and lighting to differentiate between treads and risers.				
My staircase is wide enough (four feet) to install a lift.				
<b>Ramps</b>				
If I have ramps, it has handrails and the slope is not too steep (no more than one-inch rise for each foot in length).				
There is space for a five-foot landing if a ramp is present or is needed.				
<b>Storage</b>				
The closet rods and shelves in my storage spaces are adjustable.				
I have good lighting in the storage spaces in my home.				
My storage spaces have doors that make it easy to open them and reach what I need.				

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<b>Electrical, Lighting, Safety, and Security</b>				
My home has light switches by each entrance to halls and rooms.				
There are light fixtures with at least two bulbs at the exits and in bathrooms.				
The light switches, thermostats, and other environmental controls are in easy to reach places no more than 4 feet from the floor.				
There is a clear access space of at least 2 ½ by 4 feet in front of all switches and controls in my home.				
The light switches in my home are either rocker-style or touch lights.				
My home has audio and/or visual systems to let me know when the doorbell, telephone or smoke or CO <sub>2</sub> detectors are sounding.				
I have a security/intercom system that can be monitored, with the heating, air conditioning and lighting, from smart devices while I'm home and on the go.				
My thermostats are easy to use (and program), read, see.				
My home can be direct wired to emergency responders.				
My home is wired for connection to the internet.				
<b>Flooring</b>				
The flooring in my home is non-glare, non-slip both inside and outside.				
The carpet (if applicable) in my home is less than a half inch high pile with firm padding.				
I am using color and texture contrast to show changes in flooring from room to room/height to height.				
<b>Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning</b>				
The filters in my HVAC system are easy to reach and replace.				
My HVAC unit(s) are energy efficient.				
I am able to open the windows in my home for fresh air and ventilation.				
<b>Other Ideas</b>				
There is space for a possible separate apartment for rental income or future caregiver.				
My home has space that's purpose could be flexible over time (ie: nursery to playroom to guest room or place for Mom and Dad to stay.)				

*Have questions? Not sure what some of these things mean?*

**Contact Accessibility Remodeling and we can help you think through the changes that will make your home easier to use now and for years to come.** Visit us online at [accessibilityremodeling.com](http://accessibilityremodeling.com) to get in touch.