

Therapeutic Home Adaptations for Older Adults with Disabilities

Online Table A.

Renovation Priorities Checklist

Area	Priority	Universal design features
Entrances	1	One entrance (usually 34- to 36-inch clear opening) without steps or with a very low threshold
	1	Minimum 5- × 5-foot level space for maneuvering at a step-less entrance with awning or porch covering
General	1	Passage doors with 32-inch-wide clearance (usually at 36-inch interior door)
	1	Smooth, durable flooring for wheelchair use
	2	Hall width of 42 inches
	2	Maneuvering space at doors; if door obstructs access, modify doors with offset hinges, pocket doors, reverse door swing; use opposite jamb or widen doorway
	2	Increase number of electrical outlets for lighting, equipment, and alarm indicators
Kitchens	1	Clear floor space for maneuvering (at least 5 × 8 feet)
	2	Stove with controls at the front; elevated dishwasher; front-loading washer and dryer
	2	Adaptable cabinets with under-sink knee space
Bathrooms	1	Clear floor space for maneuvering (at least 5 × 8 feet)
	2	Adaptable cabinets with under-sink knee space
	2	Reinforcement inside walls around toilets and bathing fixtures for installation of grab bars
	2	Toilet in a 48- × 56-inch space with 18 inches of space to sidewalls from centerline of toilet
	2	Curbless showers, at least 36 × 60 inches with shower bench or seat
	3	Offset controls (easier to reach handles) in bathtub or shower to minimize bending and reaching

1 = high priority for person with a wheelchair to independently enter, exit, and move about dwelling; 2 = offers patients with disabilities the possibility of being safe and independent as long as possible; 3 = offset controls offer increased safety for all users.

Adapted with permission from North Carolina State University. College of Design. Center for Universal Design. Residential rehabilitation, remodeling and universal design.

http://design.ncsu.edu/cud/pubs_p/docs/residential_remodelinl.pdf. Accessed May 13, 2009.

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