

## Aging in Place / Accessibility Checklist

Check the items that you require in your new construction or renovation:

### I. ENTRANCES:

- 1. Entrance roofs
- 2. Exterior surfaces slip resistant (eg, textured paint, aggregate concrete)
- 3. Ramps with railings
- 4. Railings on steps and porches
- 5. Bench / shelf directly inside and outside door (for packages)
- 6. Doorbell light
- 7. Lighting
  - Additional fixtures and wattage
  - Flood lights on motion sensors

### II. DOORS AND DOORWAYS

#### A. Entrance Doors:

- 1. Thresholds as low and beveled as possible
- 2. Lever handles
- 3. Single locking mechanism (ie, dead bolt only)
- 4. Peephole(s)
- 5. Push/Kick plates (on bottom / side of door)
- 6. Mail slot in door (instead of outside next to door)
- 7. Automatic closers
  - Good, because no effort to close door
  - Bad, because effort to open and keep door open
- 8. Storm doors removed or with additional handle
- 9. Sidelights next to door (to increase light, add security)
- 10. Garage door opener

#### B. Interior Doors:

- 1. Pocket doors (requires wider wall construction)
- 2. Sliding/Track protrude less into room (access to entire closet reduced by 2' - 3')
- 3. Bifolds protrude less into room (access to entire closet reduced by 3" - 6")
- 4. Folding (accordion) protrude less into room (access to entire closet reduced by 3" - 6")
- 5. Swinging single / double(western/kitchen style pushed from one or both sides)

#### C. Interior Hardware:

- 1. Lever handles
- 2. Additional loop handles added
- 3. "Swing-Away" hinges ( to gain 1" - 1½ ")

#### D. Doorways:

- 1. Doors at least 32" - 36" wide
- 2. Doors eliminated if possible
- 3. Reversed door swings (eg, swing out of bathroom instead of into)
- 4. Interior thresholds eliminated (to make floor surfaces level)
- 5. Thresholds only 1/4" - 1/2" and beveled as much as possible

### III. WINDOWS:

A. Location:  18" - 36" from floor

#### B. Styles:

- 1. Casement
- 2. Awning
- 3. Sliding

#### C. Handles:

- 1. Crank
- 2. Single-lever lock
- 3. Auxiliary handle (eg, added to double-hung windows)

#### **IV. WALLS, CEILINGS AND FLOORS:**

##### A. Wall and Ceiling Finishes:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Light colored (to reflect light)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Flat, not glossy (to reduce glare)

##### B. General:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Smooth transitions between floor types (eg., carpet and wood)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Light, bright colors (to improve visibility)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Contrasting colors or borders (to define areas)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Contrast floor and upholstery colors

##### C. Flooring:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Carpet – short, level (not sculptured), high density pile; static resistant
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Vinyl Flooring – skid resistant
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Wood – non-glare satin, skid resistant finish
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Ceramic tile – skid resistant

#### **V. STAIRWAYS**

##### A. General:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Lighting increased
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Step heights and depths consistent

##### B. Stair Coverings:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Treads non-slip with no pattern
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Edges of steps have contrasting color

##### C. Railings:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Both sides
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Contrast railing and wall colors

#### **VI. ELECTRICAL**

##### A. Lighting

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Fixtures with more than one bulb
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Wall sconces
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Indirect lighting (eg, under cabinets to reduce glare)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Closet lighting
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Remote controls or "Clapper"

##### B. Light Switches

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. 38" - 48" from floor (same as thermostat)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. At each doorway
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Large "rocker" or touch sensitive type
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Contrast plate and wall colors (eg, not white wall with white plate)

##### C. Receptacles

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. 18" - 27" from floor
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Contrast plate and wall colors

##### E. Smoke Detectors

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Direct wired with battery back-up
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Linked to Emergency Response Team

##### D. Telephones

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Multiple phone jacks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Cordless phones

#### **VII. STORAGE CLOSETS:**

##### A. Doors:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Eliminate if possible
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Bifold or sliding/track

##### B. Interior:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Closet organizers adjustable
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Rods and shelving pull out
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Upper and lower hanging rods

## VIII. BATHROOMS

### A. Tub/Shower:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Shower curtain
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Floor non-skid
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Hand-held shower, clipped to wall
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Faucet single-lever
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Shower controls scald-proof (to regulate temperature during water usage)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Tub/Shower seat

### B. Sink Area:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Cabinet vanity eliminated (insulate drain/trap to prevent burns)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Faucet single-lever
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mirror with bottom 40" from floor or tilted down
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Shelving open
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Other items (towel bars, soap/toothbrush holders) 48" from floor

### C. Grab Bars:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Toilet – behind and to side (33" - 36" or personal height)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Tub/shower – inside and outside
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Contrasting color (to improve visibility)

## IX. KITCHENS:

### A. Cabinetry:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Shelving open (for easier access)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Glass doors (for easier visibility)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Lower wall cabinets (for easier access)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Shelving adjustable and pull-out
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Racks and shelves on interior of doors
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Lazy susans
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Shelving on counters
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Handles 1½" x 4" loop type
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Handles contrasting colors

### B. Countertops:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Mobile unit(s)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Lower and higher in some areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Depths decreased (from 24" to 19") in some areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Corners rounded or 45 degree angled
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Contrasting edge color

### C. Sinks:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Shallow
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Faucets single-lever, extended handle

### D. Appliances:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Refrigerator – side by side with ice and water dispensers
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Range – front controls, touch controls, wall ovens with side-hinge doors
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Microwave – touch controls, on or under counter
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Dishwasher – touch controls, raised 6" - 16"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Garbage Disposal, Trash Compactor – touch controls, to eliminate trips to garbage
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Washer and Dryer – front controls, touch controls, front loading