LIFELONG HOUSING

Using Universal Design principles, a home can be built or updated to support our changing needs and lifestyle at any age. This brochure lists optional Universal Design features potentially available for new or existing homes.

BENEFITS OF A LIFELONG HOME

Easy access for all.
Allows for aging in place.
Is visitable for all guests, including those using mobility devices.
Improves the value of the home for future homebuyers and renters.

If you are buying a new home, please check with your builder for pricing and availability. If you are updating an existing home, check out How to Hire a Home Contractor at AARP.org/Livable for tips on finding the right contactor.

For guidance on ADA standards visit www.ada.gov.

GENERAL FEATURES

Rocker style light switches
Raised outlets placed 18” to 24” from the floor
Reduces bending and allows for easy access
Lowered switches 36” to 44” from the floor
Easy to reach and good for children
Lever style handles on doors and sink faucets
Easy use and aesthetic appeal

D-shaped pulls and handles on cabinets
Wide doorways and clear space
Easy access and great for moving large items
Low-pile carpeting or hardwood floor
Durable and wheelchair accessible
Conduit for future wiring
Allows for flexibility without major expense
**ENTRY & EXIT**

At least one (1) step-free walkway and entry
If steps, secure handrails on both sides
No trip, low door threshold
Wide Entry – minimum 36” wide or installed with swing-away or swing-clear hinges
Lower security peephole
Lower doorbell, between 36” to 44” from the floor

**STAIRWAYS & HALLWAYS**

Wide accessible routes – particularly to the bathroom, bedroom, kitchen and living area
Safe & secure handrails on both sides of the stairs, placed at an appropriate height
Light switches placed at the top and bottom of the stairs

**KITCHEN**

Lever-, touch- or sensor-style sink faucet
Stovetop controls near front of device
Pull-out cabinetry or shelves beneath counters and Lazy Susans in corner cabinets
Surface where a person can work while seated - table, pull-out work surface or cabinets, or removable lower cabinet doors and shelves
Lower countertop height, between 28” to 34” above the floor for those with mobility devices. Base cabinet height would need to be adjusted to between 26½” to 30½” accordingly

**BATHROOM**

Accessible first floor bathroom
Ample clear space for wheelchair access and shared use - for guidance, reference Federal ADA guidelines
Support bars installed near bathtub, shower and toilet – walls reinforced with wood studs or other solid surface for stable supportbar installation
Lever style sink faucet
No step shower entry – floor is leveled for appropriate drainage
Shower contains permanent or removable seating with nonslip surface
Adjustable or hand held shower head
Install comfort height toilets (16” - 18”)

**BEDROOM**

Accessible first floor bedroom
Closets have interior lights and adjustable rods and shelves

Questions? Contact the City of Fishers Planning & Zoning Department at 317-595-3155