

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



ROOM-BY-ROOM

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")



PHOTO COURTESY: AARP.COM CAN YOU AFFORD TO AGE IN PLACE?

BEDROOM

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